



# The Herald

14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

It was lovely to see so many families at our Parents Evenings this week. Please can I apologise where meetings were running late. We have discussed this and staff and will be putting things into place to stop this in the future. As you all know, I am really keen to know your thoughts and what we could do differently. This is a link to a very short survey about Parents Evening that I would be very grateful if you could fill in:

<https://forms.gle/P7n6p3x6pvkGVufG7>

I attended a Castle Hill Friends (our PTA) meeting this week. They have planned an exciting Christmas Fayre and are already planning the Valentine's Disco. Mrs Bushell will be stepping back in her Chair role and I would like to thank her for all of the brilliant work she has done. I was concerned to hear from the group that they are worried that they may have to close the PTA as there are just not enough volunteers for each event. They have had to stop the Santa trail this year as not enough volunteers were available (the school will be taking this on). Over the last few years, the Castle Hill Friends have funded or contributed to the following:

Reading sheds, the fenced quiet area, the whole school trip to the Haymarket, replacement reading books, forest school training and resources, pantos in school and toys for lunchtime and for Willow Room.

They have planned this year to spend money raised on a large mud kitchen for Forest School and completely revamping the 'Secret Garden' (the area through the archway on the no-mow).

I'm sure you have heard in the press that school budgets are very tight and the Friends provide us with the extras that we just couldn't afford. The group welcomes parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other members of the community. If you think you can help for any events across the year or prep for the events, please could you let them know via their Facebook page.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Fitz

## Class Stars of the Week



Zachary  
Lyra  
Raff  
Oskar  
Arya  
Raymond



## Mrs Fitz's Star of the Week



Grace



### Early Years

It was lovely to see so many of you at parents evening this week, it was great to share with you how well the children have settled in. Thank you for being so supportive, your partnership is so important to us.

In our Great Outdoors Project this week, the children have really enjoyed learning how to plant a bean. They are taking responsibility for the beans by giving them what they need to grow - water, light and warmth. They are eagerly observing them daily to see what happens next.

We are also incredibly proud of the children as they have taken on the challenge of some instructional writing this week. After they had planted their beans, the children have been able to sequence the process by using pictures and writing some words.

You will receive your child's letter for the Christmas Nativity today, stating their character and any costume requirements that may be needed. If your child does have lines in the play, we would be grateful if you could practice these at home with them. Any questions please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Please note – No phonic sounds will be sent home this week or next due to reviewing the sounds that we have already learnt. Please continue to practice the sounds at home in ways which your child feels most comfortable.

As part of Road Safety Week next week, we will be learning about how to cross the road safely and the importance of being bright and being seen.

Have a wonderful weekend!

The Early Years Team

### Year 1

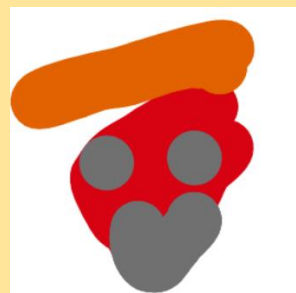
We are very excited to have begun practising songs for this year's nativity play. There are some very catchy songs which we're sure will be stuck in your heads as well as ours!

In maths we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes and continue to learn more about the events of 1666.

In I.T. we have created some artwork inspired by Matisse using pointillism and also some self-portraits.

If your child has brought home lines for the nativity play, we would be grateful if you could help them to learn them ready for our rehearsals, thank you.

The Year 1 Team



## Year 2

What a wonderful week the children have had! This week we have had a visit from PC Boxall who explained how he helps in our community. In maths, children have been using practical resources like dienes to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers. The children have also used geographical language to describe our flight from London, England to Auckland, New Zealand.

Next week, in our maths lessons, the children will continue their work on subtracting two 2-digit numbers.

In R.E, in our 'Candlelight as a Symbol' unit, the children will explore an advent wreath and look at what each candle represents.

In our project, we will be finding out about physical and human features on North Island, focusing on the city and Mount Ruapehu. We will be learning about using commas in lists in our writing and finding out about visitor centres and tourism in preparation for our own visitor centre.

Thank you to those who have donated towards our animal adoption from our last project. If you would still like to donate there is one final week to do so. This can be done at the office or with the class teacher.

Many thanks for your continued support.

The Year 2 Team

## Forest School

We have decided to make Forest school sessions longer to give the children more opportunities to take part in activities and extend their play.

This means that the sessions will run every other week for the classes.

### **The next sessions will be:**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November: Birch

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November: Maple

Thank you

Mrs Fulbrook



## Castle Hill Friends

🔔 **Only 1 Week to Go!** 🌲 🎁

We're counting down the days until our **Christmas Fayre** – and it's nearly here! Join us for a magical day filled up on stalls with games, gifts, crafts, and treats! 🍪 Enjoy some food and drink to keep you cosy and cheerful! And of course, get to meet Father Christmas himself 🎅

❖ It's the perfect way to kick off the holiday season with family and friends.

📍 Venue: **Castle Hill Infant School, please enter from Winklebury Way** ⌚ Time: **Friday 21st from 4pm-6pm**

We can't wait to see you there – let's make this year's fayre the best yet! ❤️ ❄️

## **Office Notices**

### **INSET Days**

#### **2025/2026**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026

### **Thought of the Week**

Next week in school we will focus on our school value of truth. Following on from our anti-bullying week, we are all working particularly on:

I stand up for what is right

This is part of our 'I am honest' value

Tickle the Truth Dragon



We are honest

### **Diary Dates**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Christmas Fayre

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Early Years Project Outcome – 14:45 – Parents invited