



Every day a successful day for all  
... whatever it takes

# The Herald

28th November 2025

Thank you for all of your support at the Christmas Fayre. It was such a lovely community event. Make sure you scroll down to the Friends section to see the amazing total raised!

Please can I remind all families that children should not be using any play equipment or school resources such as bikes, before and after school. This is to avoid accidents and ensure that activities set up remain ready for the children.

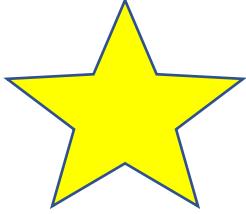
I am really looking forward to the trip to the Haymarket Theatre next Friday. It is fantastic that the children are able to experience a theatre visit and would not be possible without the funding raising efforts of the Castle Hill Friends. Please could you ensure that the permission slips are brought in on **Monday** at the latest if they have not yet been returned. We cannot take children without this permission.

We will put out the Christmas postbox next week for Christmas Cards as it is December (my favourite part of the school year!).

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Fitz

## Class Stars of the Week



Cally  
Theo K  
Max B  
Murari  
Kaia  
Max W



## Mrs Fitz's Star of the Week



Alfie J



## Early Years

### What a fun-filled week we've had!

As part of our *Great Outdoors* project, we've been learning all about **hibernation**. The children have really enjoyed finding out which animals hibernate and how they keep warm during the winter months.

This week, the children became little **designers**, planning and creating cosy homes to help animals stay safe in the cold weather. They thought carefully about the materials they would choose and why. Your

child will be bringing their design home today — if they would like to make their animal home, please feel free to do so, and we'd love to see photos on **Tapestry**!

We also welcomed **Mr Whistler** back to Early Years. The children were excited to share everything they have learnt and talked together about different ways they could use the leaves that they have collected outside.

In **maths**, we have been exploring the number **5**. The children have done brilliantly with sorting objects that represent 5 and even made their very own number blocks.

Our **Twinkly Nativity** rehearsals are going really well. We have sent home your child's lines again this week — please continue to practise these together at home.

Your child's **Purple Mash login** has now been added to the back of their home diary. This will give you access to a range of activities they can enjoy at home.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to sharing our project outcome with you **this afternoon at 2:45pm**.

Early Years Team

### **Year 1**

This week in Year 1 we have been wrapping up our 'Fire! Fire!' project by completing a watercolour background and black silhouette to create the final artwork piece. The children have also showed their knowledge by creating a timeline and writing about it in their books. Finally, we looked into what happened after the fire was out and wrote a sentence about this. We are so pleased that the children have really enjoyed this project and they have produced some amazing work!

Next week is our project outcome on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of December at 2:45pm**. As it has been designed as a time tunnel, we ask that parents joining us follow the map given to them at the entrance so that you can experience the events of the fire in the correct order! We will also be providing you with some prompts to ask the children at each station as they are very eager to share what they have learnt with you.

In maths we have done some additional work with 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been on a shape hunt and have labelled the shapes in their books. Next week we will be going back over addition and subtraction as consolidation.

**Thank you to parents that have sent their child in with their costumes for the Christmas performance, just a reminder that these needed to be in this week.** Our Christmas play will be performed on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December at 9:10 (adults only) and 2:15 (everyone invited).

Have a lovely weekend,

The Year 1 Team

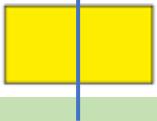
### **Year 2**

This week the children have been great geographers locating Lake Taupo on a map as well as writing some fabulous acrostic poems about Lake Taupo and the Waitomo Caves.

In maths, the children have finished their unit on addition and subtraction, finishing with comparing number sentences. For example,  $13 + 5 < 13 + 9$ .  $13 + 5 = 18$  and  $13 + 9 = 22$ . 18 is less than 22.

Next week, we will start to write leaflets using expanded noun phrases such as 'Come and see the wonderful, exciting Waitomo caves.'

In maths, we have started our new unit on shape, looking at sides and vertices (corners) on 2D shape. We will also look at vertical lines of symmetry. For example,



We have sponsored a panda as part of our Journey Home project! We will be getting a cuddly toy panda which will be shared between the classes. We would like to say thank you to parents and Mrs Cameron for supporting us with this adoption.

The Year 2 Team

### **Forest School**

Unfortunately, due to the condition of the bank Forest School session will resume after Christmas. We will be installing a path which will lead up to forest school so that it can be accessed safely.

Thank you



Mrs Fulbrook

### **Castle Hill Friends**

🎄 🎄 🎄 A Huge Thank You from Castle Hill Friends! 🎄 🎄

We want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who came along to our Christmas Fair last week! We hope you had a wonderful time soaking up the festive cheer.

We're thrilled to share that together we raised just over **£1000** for the Castle Hill Friends Fund 🎉. This amazing amount will go towards revamping our much-loved **Secret Garden area** 🌿 and providing some extra **treats for the kids** 🎁.

Your continued support means the world to us, and we couldn't do it without you. ❤️

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend from Castle Hill Friends PTA

### **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 excellence. With this value we are looking to develop an attitude of hard work and pride in the children's achievements. We are particularly thinking about:

I make the most of opportunities given to me

Ember the Excellence Dragon

This is part of our 'I am the best I can be' value



We are the best we can be

### Diary Dates

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 Project Outcome – 14:45 – Parents invited

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Tales from Acorn Wood Haymarket – 10am -12pm

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Early Years Christmas Performances

#### **The Twinkly Nativity**

09:15am – (Adults only)

14:15pm – (Adults and children welcome)

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2 Project Outcome – 14:45pm – Parents invited

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December- Year 1 Christmas Performances

#### **The Bossy King**

09:15am – (Adults only)

14:15pm – (Adults and children welcome)

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day (£1 donation)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Early Years Christmas Party (during school hours)

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 Christmas Party (during school hours)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – iRock Concert (iRock parents invited to attend)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2 Christmas Party (during school hours)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2 Christmas Concert - 14:15pm – Parents invited

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – CHF Christmas Event morning



**Christmas holiday**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – School Re-opens for Spring Term