



The Herald

25th September 2026

It was lovely to see so many parents at the Open-Door event on Thursday. I hope that you found this opportunity useful.

Can I share a few reminders: children should not be playing on the outdoor equipment before or after school, there should be no dogs on site (except for working dogs) and please could Year 1 and 2 parents wait with their children on the playground until all lines have left if they wish to come up to accompany them to the door.

On the external gates you will see the 'Public Notice' letters for the Inclusion Bases in both our site and the Primary School. This is part of the consultation process. You can also view the details:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/publicnotices/publicnoticedetails?id=23123>

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Fitz



Stars of the Week

Amza
Ariel
Issac
Indigo
Elijah S
Florence C



National Year of Reading



Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026

GO
ALL
IN.

Library Opening – Every Friday!

It was lovely to see some of you last week at the library after school. Don't forget you can bring your child along to share a book with you or borrow one to take home to share. Entry to the library is through the office once you have picked up your child at 3.15pm and will be open until 4pm. I hope to see you there.

Class Book Worms of the week Challenge

Well done to everyone who has read at home at least 3 times. Please help your child by reading at least 3 times at home with them and recording this in their home reading diaries. We look forward to Early Years joining the challenge in a couple of weeks.

This week's Book Worms of the Week are:



Birch Class

Class percentages for the week:

Rowan Class	14.8%
Birch Class	26%
Sycamore Class	3.7%
Maple Class	21%%

Mrs Cameron



Early Years

What a wonderful week we've had in Early Years!

The children are continuing to settle in brilliantly. They are becoming increasingly confident with our daily routines and are building strong foundations for their learning journey.

This week in Maths, we had great fun exploring the concepts of **same** and **different** as we sorted lots of objects according to different criteria. We looked at sorting according to colour, size, shape and material. We also enjoyed maths through the story, 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson as we counted how many could fit into the house and learnt the language of **more** and **fewer**. The children loved getting hands-on during Sparkle Time, using practical activities to reinforce and deepen their understanding. Perhaps you could get them to do some sorting at home using their toys.

In our project lessons, we continued to talk about emotions using *The Colour Monster* and *The Colour Monster goes to School* as a guide. This story has helped the children to recognise and name their feelings, and we've started exploring simple strategies they can use to manage them. It's been wonderful to see them becoming more confident to express themselves. We've now added all the colour monsters to our calm corner and the children have their own named monsters that they can move throughout the day to show us how they are feeling.

The children also completed their first entry in their project books, drawing something they love and explaining why it's special to them. This was a lovely opportunity for self-expression and helped us learn more about their individual interests. We have lots of love for dinosaurs, Squishies and family.

Tapestry is now up and running! Thank you to those that have activated their accounts. Keep an eye out for updates, next week, on how your child is settling into Early Years — we're excited to share their learning journey with you. You can also share their remarkable achievements at home with us. Have they started ballet or swimming or learnt to ride their scooters? We'd like to hear about it.

Looking ahead to next week:

- We'll be continuing our focus on ourselves and others, encouraging the children to explore what makes them unique and celebrating differences among us.
- We start learning our first set of sounds in **Phonics**!
- In **Maths**, we'll continue to learn about the concepts of **same and different**, with opportunities to compare and match objects. We'll share the story, 'Simon Sock'.
- **Time to Talk books** will be sent home on Thursday and collected in on Monday. We hope you enjoy sharing these talking tasks with your child as they will support them to join in with discussions and learning in class. It would be great if you could record any discussions you have in the book for us to see and make sure that they are in book bags ready for collection on Monday mornings as we often share these during snack time throughout the week.

This week, the children have found it tricky to take off their cardigans and jumpers independently when they are too hot. Please could you practise this at home and show them how to pull those tricky sleeves back out again when they turn inside out.

It was lovely seeing some of you at our open evening on Thursday! The children enjoyed showing you around their classroom. Don't worry if you couldn't make it as our project event will be another opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend!
The Early Years Team

Year 1

It's been a busy week! We have introduced adjectives and verbs this week and the children have come up with their own sentences to write about the characters from the book, *Somebody Swallowed Stanley*! We have also looked at past tense and practised writing words with an 'ed' ending.

Next week in project we will be moving onto science, looking into different materials such as plastic, paper, cardboard, glass and metal. The children will be doing some experiments to find out which materials break down in the ocean and which don't. This links in with the themes from '*Somebody Swallowed Stanley*'.

In maths, we have been consolidating $<$ $>$ and $=$ as well as looking at putting numbers to 10 in the correct order. Next week we will be introducing part-whole models and writing number sentences using numbers to 10. Any practise of this at home would be great!

It was lovely seeing some of you at our open evening on Thursday! We hope you enjoyed seeing some of the wonderful learning your children have been doing and thank you for your continued support.

Have a great weekend!
The Year 1 Team

Year 2

It has been a very busy week in Year 2! This week the children have researched polar bears using Britannica and have used this information to write fact files. We have read more of our story '*The Journey Home*' and have met a new animal – the panda. The children have recapped nouns and adjectives to create expanded noun phrases such as big busy city and tall pointy buildings.

In maths, the children have revisited comparing objects and numbers. They have used numbers up to 100 and compared them using the symbols for greater than $>$, less than $<$ and equal to $=$. We have also recapped counting in steps of 2s, 5s and 10s. Next week we will begin counting in steps of 3, recap bonds to 10 to then secure bonds to 20.

Home learning will be sent home this week in children's Time to Talk books. Please could we ask that you sign your child's reading diary if they have read to you.

Have a lovely weekend,
The Year 2 Team

Thought of the Week

Believe in yourself

(This is part of our self-esteem value, 'We feel good about ourselves')

Sparkle the
Self-esteem Dragon



We feel good about ourselves

Castle Hill Friends

Cauliflower card forms were sent home with your children this week. Please place your orders online and return the forms to school by Monday 28th September. Any forms not handed in on time will not be sent back to be processed and you will have to arrange this yourself ✨

Tickets for the Halloween Disco are now on sale on our website. These are £3 each 🍷
The disco will take place on 22nd October at the following times:

Early Years- 3:20pm-4pm

Year 1- 4:15pm-4:55pm

Year 2- 5:10pm-5:50pm

The children in Early Years will head straight to the hall at the end of the school day for their disco! Drop off and collection will be at the Early Years doors, this will be for all year groups.

Tickets will be on sale until 21st October, please make sure you have purchased your child's ticket before this date. You do not need a physical copy, we will have a list of all the children for the disco.

If you think you could spare any time to help at the discos, please email us at castlehillfriends@outlook.com, Facebook message us, or speak to a member of the PTA on the playground 😊

Office Notices

We would like to remind you that **Wednesday 1 October is School Census Day**, and we have a **special menu** planned for the day!

Main: Chicken Goujons **or** Pizza Fingers with Ketchup

Sides: Chips, Peas **or** Baked Beans

Also: Focaccia **or** Garlic Flatbread

Dessert: Chocolate Cookie

Could your child be eligible for Pupil Premium?

If your family's circumstances have changed recently, you may now be eligible for additional support. It's worth checking, even if you weren't eligible before.

[Check your eligibility here](#)

Thank you for your support!

Parents evening – 19th and 20th October

Appointments will be available to book from Monday 28th September through to Friday 9th October. Please log in to Arbor from Monday to book your preferred appointment slot for your child. You will have a 10-minute appointment to discuss your child's progress and how they have settled back into school.

Harvest Festival – Thursday 15th October

Please find attached a flyer from the foodbank with some items on a shopping list that the food bank accepts. The foodbank is also very grateful for any other foods that are dry foods or tinned food items.

We would appreciate if any donations could be brought into school from Wednesday 30th September so they can be displayed in the school hall.

INSET Days

2026/2027

Monday 4th January 2027

Thursday 25th March 2027

Friday 9th July 2027

Diary Dates

Monday 28th September – Parents evening appointment open on Arbor

Thursday 1st October – Census Day – Change of lunch menu only on that day