



The Herald

9th October 2026

Thank you for all of your support with the parking at the back of the school. Mr Whistler and I have noticed a real difference.

Next week we have school photos on Wednesday and the Harvest Festival on Thursday. Thank you for all of the donations which we have already received and any more would be greatly appreciated.

In the final week of term (the week after next) we have Parents Evening. Please contact the office if you haven't been able to make an appointment.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fitz

Stars of the Week



Jude
Callum
Cally
Theodore K
Ava
Nova



National Year of Reading



Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026

GO
ALL
IN.

Guinness World Record Attempt!

This week Year 2 took part in the 'Take 10 to Read' Guinness World Record attempt online workshop which included a reading of *Super Uma* by Rashmi Sirdeshpande, followed by a draw-along activity with illustrator Nakul P. The illustrations the children produced were fabulous and will be collated into a book that will be displayed in the library next week.

Library Opening – Every Friday!

It was lovely to many of you returning to the library last Friday, sharing books and changing books for the weekend. 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



Your child needs your help!

The Education Endowment found that parental engagement approaches in reading result in four additional months of progress over the course of a year. Please help your child by reading at least **3 times at home** with them and **recording this in their home learning diaries**. **Their diaries are taken in on a Thursday and the number of reads counted to add to the class percentage.**

Percentages have improved this week and it has been lovely to welcome Early Years to the reading challenge. Let's see if we can get a record number of reads this week!

This week's Book Worms of the Week are:

Ash Class

Class percentages for the week:

Fir Class	28%
Ash Class	36%
Rowan Class	29%
Birch Class	16%
Sycamore Class	18%
Maple Class	26%

Mrs Cameron



Early Years

This week in Early Years, the children have been introduced to the phonics sounds *i*, *m*, *n*, and *d*. They continue to demonstrate wonderful resilience and a positive attitude towards their new learning, which is a pleasure to see. We have noticed that some sounds have not yet been cut up and used at home. Please continue to practice the sounds with your child at home and remember have fun by playing games e.g. 's' - find something that starts with 's' (sock, stick).

In handwriting, the children have started forming letters as part of our handwriting scheme. They are becoming increasingly confident in using their 'three friends hold' and are developing greater independence with their pencil control.

In mathematics, our focus has been on exploring the concepts of **length** and **mass**. The children enjoyed comparing ribbons of various lengths and predicting which everyday objects would be heavier or lighter. Their curiosity and reasoning skills are really beginning to flourish.

During our project sessions, we have been learning about **wider family relationships**. The children shared information about their families and we have been talking about when our family members were born, sparking conversations about **past and present**. As part of this, we created a class timeline to help children begin to understand the sequence of events in their own lives.

Next week in maths, we will be focusing on the number 1 and exploring 1 more. We will encourage the children to investigate the number, learn how it is formed and how it is represented in different ways.

Now we have started reading with the children, new reading books will be sent home once a week. Please record in your child's home diary every time that they read. If they have read 3 or more times this will be included in our class percentage towards winning Book Worm. We will be recording children's reads from a Friday until the Thursday of the next week. Please ensure the reading diaries are in the bookbags each day. Please see the National Year of Reading section for information about Book Worm of the Week.

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend!

The Early Years Team

Year 1

In project lessons this week we completed our final piece of writing about the ending to 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley', using adjectives and the conjunction 'and'. We have also started to create our artwork. The children experimented with printing using different recyclable materials, first on paper with paint, then on play dough. Next week we will start to do the same onto clay sculptures of sea animals.

In maths, we have been focusing on number bonds up to 10. The children have used practical resources such as counters and tens frames to help work out number bonds and write corresponding number sentences. We've been so pleased with how well they have done with this!

Just a reminder you can find the lost property box outside of the hall doors at home time. Please feel free to check if you are missing any clothing items.

Have a lovely weekend,

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

The children have been working really hard on their orangutan fact files this week, using conjunctions 'and' and 'so' to extend their ideas.

Next week, in project, children will be mapping out the last parts of the journey, travelling to Kenya to see the elephant and Mauritius to visit the dodo. They will describe the journey using geographical language, including using compass points. They will be holding discussions as a class as to why certain animals do not exist anymore and who is to blame for habitats being destroyed. The children will then go on to create posters to explain the damages climate change has created and how to stop it.

In maths, this week the children have been using their bonds to 10 to make bonds to 100. For example:

$$2 + 8 = 10$$

$$20 + 80 = 100$$

$$3 + 7 = 10$$

$$30 + 70 = 100$$

Next week in maths we will be adding by making 10, this means finding the bond to 10 then adding more. For example:

$$3 + 9 = \text{we break the 9 up into parts so that we can do } 3 + 7 = 10 \text{ then add the 2 left over to } = 12.$$

Please do not worry if it sounds tricky, we will spend a few lessons learning different ways to do this.

Please can we remind you to label all of your children's clothing. We will start to put lost property boxes outside every day before home time.

The Year 2 Team

Thought of the Week

Next week in school we will focus on our school value of Learning. We are particularly thinking about:

I keep trying when I face difficulties

This is part of 'We are resilient'



Castle Hill Friends

Halloween Disco - 22nd October 2026 🎃

EY - 3:20pm-4:05pm

Y1 - 4:15pm-5pm

Y2 - 5:10pm-5:55pm

Apologies for the confusion on last week's newsletter. The disco is on Thursday 22nd October!

Drop off and collection will be through the Early Years doors. Children in Early Years will go straight to the disco at the end of the day. Children in Magna will still be able to attend the disco as they will bring them to and from the disco during their year groups time slot.

Tickets are available for £3 on the website until 21st October 🖋️

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/chf-castlehillfriends/>

Also on 22nd October, non-uniform day for a £1 donation 🍷

Halloween costumes welcome in preparation for the disco. Please not too scary and no accessories. This is for the safety of all children.

INSET Days

2026/2027

Monday 4th January 2027

Thursday 25th March 2027

Friday 9th July 2027

Diary Dates

Wednesday 14th October – Individual school photos

Thursday 15th October – Harvest Festival in school – children only

Monday 19th October – Tuesday 20th October – Parents evening – bookings open on Arbor