



The Herald

16th October 2026

Thank you for your generosity with the Harvest Festival gifts. The Food Bank have collected these today and they will go to families in need across Basingstoke.



One of the reasons that I love being Headteacher of Castle Hill Infant School is the sense of community I have always felt here. As parents, you have always supported me and helped shape this wonderful place to learn. Over recent weeks there have been a couple of issues. Yesterday there was a near miss with pedestrians on the car park zebra crossing. There have also been some disagreements between adults on and around the site. Please can I ask that you take care when driving near the school, are respectful to one another and are careful about the language used around the children. I'm sure that we all agree this should be a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

I am looking forward to seeing families for Parents' Evening next week. We also have the Halloween Disco, so a very busy end to this half term!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fitz

Stars of the Week



Isabelle
George
Ameera
Olivia
Evie
Luca



National Year of Reading



Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026

GO
ALL
IN.

Library Opening – Every Friday!

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.

It is a great opportunity to share a book with your child and get one read written in the home learning diary before the weekend even gets started! I hope to see you there.

Class Book Worms of the week Challenge



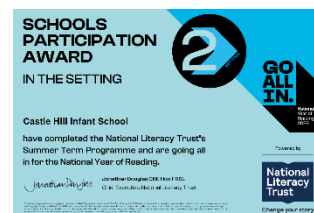
Please help your child by reading at least **3 times at home** with them and **recording this in their home learning diaries**. Their diaries are taken in on a Thursday and the number of reads counted to add to the class percentage.

This week's Book Worms of the Week are: Maple Class

Class percentages for the week:

Fir Class	28.6%
Ash Class	36%
Rowan Class	14%
Birch Class	26%
Sycamore Class	18.5%
Maple Class	40%

Mrs Cameron



Early Years

Early years have had a very busy week! We have been learning about how we all belong to a community (our family, school, class, clubs) and why. In maths, we have been exploring the number one and how it is formed. The children have really enjoyed finding the number '1' in the environment and collecting '1' of different objects, e.g. 1 cube, 1 book, 1 pencil.

All of the children sang beautifully in our Harvest assembly and they worked together like 'Cosmo' by helping and supporting each other to perform.

Next week we will be looking at the number '2', how it is formed and what the number '2' looks like in different ways. During our project sessions we will continue to look at 'belonging' and explore what a faith is and if any of the children belong to a faith.

If you have not yet completed your family tree, which is the joint challenge for this half-term, there is still time. We have some spaces on the display boards for the last few in each class.

Can we remind you that the reading diaries and reading books should come to school **every day**.

We cannot wait to share with you all of our learning about 'Marvellous Me'. The children have really enjoyed learning all about themselves and each other!

Please remember that our Project Outcome is on Friday 23rd October at 2.45pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

The Early Years Team

Year 1

This week in project we've been completing the children's clay sculptures of sea animals. They have really impressed us by using recyclable materials to print and decorate them! We have also started to paint them based on what they designed.

In maths we have started to introduce subtraction. The children have been taught to use counters or their fingers to help with this and have made excellent progress so far. In today's lesson the children were tasked with writing a subtraction number sentence e.g. $5-2=3$. We will be continuing with this next week.

The children sang beautifully in our Harvest Assembly this week and we were very pleased with their lovely voices and actions.

Next **Wednesday at 2:45pm** is our project outcome for 'Stanley Saves the Seas'. This will be laid out in the hall and across both Year 1 classes. The children are excited to show off their lovely work, including their fantastic sculptures and home learning. There will be a parent quiz for you to complete with the help of the children. We ask that you encourage your children to stay where they are stationed to avoid any confusion.

Have a lovely weekend,

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

This week in our project sessions the children have plotted the journey of the two final animals in the story – the elephant and the dodo bird. They have described and drawn the journey that was taken by the animals using geographical language such as the animal sailed south in the Indian Ocean. We have discussed how the animals are feeling and why they are feeling this way using the conjunction 'because'.

In maths this week the children have been adding by making 10, this is also known as 'bridging through 10'. It is one of many methods that helps with mental arithmetic. We have also added 3 1-digit numbers using bonds to 10 to help.

For example:

$$3 + 8 + 7 =$$

$$3 + 7 = 10$$

$$10 + 8 = 18$$

Rainbow maths sheets are part of their homework and it is for them to practice at home. We will see the progress when we do rainbow maths in class so sheets can stay at home.

Thank you to those who have brought in their animal habitats. They look great!

You are invited to our Take Action Now! event, on **Thursday 22nd October at 9.05 am** where the children will showcase their learning about endangered animals and raise awareness of the crisis that the animal world is facing. Join us in our fundraising event to help support and adopt one! As a year group, we have been looking at the WWF website. We would love to adopt one of the animals the children have been learning about and we are asking for a voluntary donation at our project outcome of £1 to help us with this cause. Unfortunately, if we do not raise enough money, we will not be able to complete the adoption.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Year 2 Team

Thought of the Week

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

I respect others

This is part of 'We work collaboratively'

Cosmo the Community
Dragon



We work collaboratively

Office Notices

Fraser Portraits

Your child will come home with their school photo proof from Fraser Portraits this afternoon. You will receive free delivery to school if you order before Friday 30th October. If you place any orders after this date you will need to pay for delivery of the photo.

Poppy Appeal

We will be selling poppies and merchandise from this afternoon in the school office. You can donate by cash or the QR code which is available at the office. Suggested donations are:

Reflectors - £1.00

Snap bands - £1.50

Wrist bands - £1.00

Castle Hill Friends

Bake Sale after school today

Cookies for £1, donuts for £1.50 - Cash preferred, but card payment is available.

Halloween Disco – Thursday 22nd October 2026 🎃

EY - 3:20pm-4:05pm

Y1 - 4:15pm-5:00pm

Y2 - 5:10pm-5:55pm

Tickets are available for £3.00 and can be purchased on the website until the 21st October 🖋️

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

You will be able to pay this by cash to the class teachers, or on the website.

Halloween costumes welcome in preparation for the disco. Please not too scary and no accessories or masks. 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

Monday 19th October – Tuesday 20th October – Parents evening –

Tuesday 20th October – **Computing and Board Games club cancelled**

Wednesday 21st October – Year 1 Project Outcome – 2:45pm – Parents invited

Thursday 22nd October – Year 2 Project outcome 9:05am – Parents invited

All year groups – Nasal flu vaccine

Castle Hill Friends Halloween disco

Friday 23rd October – Early Years Project Outcome – 2:45pm – Parents invited

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October – Autumn half term holiday