



The Herald

23rd January 2026

I would like to extend an invitation to our parent community. We are currently seeking parent volunteers to assist with reading in our classrooms. Your contribution, even if only 15 minutes per week, can make a significant difference in a child's educational journey. If you are interested in participating, please visit the school office to collect a form or inform your child's class teacher directly. This could be at any time of the day, such as first thing in the morning or just before pick up. This links to our National Year of Reading.

Next week is our 'Open Door' afternoon. This is taking place from pick up time until 5pm. Staff will be in their classrooms and we invite you to pop in and have a chat and look at your child's work.

Your involvement in our school community is invaluable, and we greatly appreciate all of your support.

Have a lovely weekend – hopefully the rain will stop!

Mrs Fitz

Class Stars of the Week



Freddie R-O
Indigo
Wren
Cian
Waiyan
Aiden



Mrs Fitz's Star of the Week



Thea



National Year of Reading



Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026

GO
ALL
IN.

I am excited to announce that in the week beginning 2nd February we will be celebrating National Storytelling Week. Look out for information on next weeks newsletter for further details of our activities in school.



Up-coming events: Week beginning 2nd February - National Storytelling Week
5th March - World Book Day – Dress up as your favourite character from a book

Mrs Cameron

Early Years

This week the children have been learning all about Emperor penguins. They have looked at the life-cycle and written sentences about what they have found out, using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop.

In maths we have been learning all about the number 6. The children have had lots of fun making their hexagon monsters and finding out different ways of making 6.

Thank you to those that attended our handwriting workshop, we hope you found it useful. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Next week we are going to be writing some fact pages for our class books, to help our explorer Emily Snow. We will also be continuing our 'Magic Ride' by visiting China. We are very excited to start learning a Chinese New Year song and dragon dance.

New phonics sounds have come home today in zippy wallets. Please have a look at them with your child to help them remember them. We hope that you have managed to log into Purple Mash using your child's log in which is in the back of their home learning diary. The following link will take you to our school log in page www.purplemash.com/chi-rq23/child Please come and see us if you have any questions.

We would like to ask for your help with the children's independence when dressing. We are encouraging them to try and turn their clothes in the right way around when dressing and undressing for PE and putting on their socks or tights. Any practise at home with this would really help them in class when changing. We are also working on zips on coats and many of the children are working collaboratively to help one another.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you have a lovely weekend.

Early Years Team

Year 1

This week the children have started their puppet making journey by making 'mock ups' of their puppet design. They have worked very hard to make sure that their mock ups look just like their design. In project writing this week the children have learnt about alliteration which they will be using in their story writing e.g. 'trip trap, clip clop...'. We are continuing to encourage independence in writing by using resources that can be found around the classroom such as the learning walls and tricky word walls.

In maths this week the children have compared numbers within 20 by using words such as greater than, less and equal to whilst using the corresponding symbols. They have also revisited ordering numbers from greatest to smallest. Next week we will be moving on to addition within 20.

Just a reminder that the children's home learning for our 'Showtime' project is to design and create a puppet at home. This can be any type of puppet, if you have any questions or need any help with ideas feel free to bring this up with your class teacher!

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

This week in our Iceberg Ahead project, the children wrote sentences using the subordinating conjunctions 'that' and 'when'. E.g The people cheered when the Titanic set off. The newspaper said that the ship was huge. We also discussed what a 'maiden voyage' is.

Next week in our project, we will start to think about chronology, the order of when events happened, when the Titanic sank. The children will also write a diary entry using a variation of conjunctions e.g. and, but, because, so, and or, as well as use the first person 'I' in their writing.

In maths next week, children will be starting a new unit on multiplication and division. Please can you practice counting in 2's, 10's and 5's with your child.

On Thursday, all children were given a cardboard box. Each box will be a part of our Titanic display in the corridor. Each box will be given part of the Titanic ship e.g. 1st class room, 2nd class dining, engine room. We have attached some pictures of previous years for some inspiration. Your child can be as creative as they like and use different media to create their room. Just a reminder that we would like all of the boxes to be in by the 6th February.



Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful weekend,

The Year 2 Team

Castle Hill Friends

💖 Valentine's Disco 💖

We're excited to share that tickets for our Valentine's Disco on 12th February are now available to purchase. It's always a highlight of the school year, and we can't wait to make it a fantastic evening for the children.

To help the event run smoothly, we're looking for volunteers to chaperone each year group. If you're able to support, even for part of the evening, we'd love to hear from you.

🌟 Please let us know if you can help.

Also on our Private page on Facebook (Castle Hill Friends PTA - Parents) we are creating a playlist suitable for the event that it will include some of your children's favourites 🎧. Please do send over some comments of your children's choices. We'd love to have some interaction on our page and it benefits our kids after all 🎉

🌟 Scan the QR code below to visit our website and book your tickets.



Thank you for your continued support — events like this simply wouldn't happen without our wonderful school community 💙

Have a wonderful weekend 🌟

Office Notices

INSET Days

2025/2026

Friday 13th February 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Friday 10th July 2026

Thought of the Week

Next week in school we will focus on our school value of learning. With this value we are looking to develop resilience in the children and a 'can do' attitude. We are particularly thinking about:

I keep trying when I face difficulties

This is part of our 'I am resilient' value

Lightning the Learning
Dragon



We are resilient

Diary Dates

Tuesday 27th January – Open door – 3:15 – 5:00pm

Monday 9th February – Children's mental health week

Tuesday 10th February – Internet safety day

Wednesday 11th February- Year 1 Project Outcome 09:00am - Parents invited

Year 2 Project Outcome – 2:30pm – Parents invited

Thursday 12th February - Year R Project outcome 09.05am - Parents invited

Thursday 12th February - Castle Hill Friends Valentines Disco

Early Years – 3:15 – 4:00pm

Year 1 – 4:10–4:55pm

Year 2- 5:05 – 5:50pm

Thursday 12th February - Castle Hill Friends - Wear what you love day - £1.00 donation

Friday 13th February – INSET Day

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February – Half term holiday