



The Herald

30th January 2026

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the open door event. It was lovely to chat to some of you and get your feedback. The purpose of these evenings is for you to come and see your child's work and have an informal chat with staff.

I have noticed that there has been an increase in lateness over the last two weeks. This week there were 147 minutes lost to late arrivals (Monday to Thursday). The children start learning tasks as soon as they arrive in the morning which could be sentence writing, improving and correcting work, handwriting, maths etc. Children should be here by 8:50 at the latest. I do understand that, at times, things happen such as new roadworks appear overnight, the car won't start etc, but this should not be regular. Please come and see me if you would like to discuss this.

The Valentine's Disco is coming up the week after next. We have split the disco into each year group. Please look at the Castle Hill Friends section for more details.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fitz

Class Stars of the Week



Evie
Hallie
Darcie
Bryony
Raynar
Zoe



Mrs Fitz's Star of the Week



Milo M



National Year of Reading



Part of the
National Year of Reading 2026

GO
ALL
IN.

Next week we are taking part in National Storytelling Week. The theme of the week is 'Soundtrack your Story'. We have a whole host of exciting activities taking place in school. I will be delivering a launch assembly on Monday morning to kick start the week! Early years children will be engaging with some specially recorded videos by author Simon Mole called Rhyme, rhythm and wriggles. These are all about bugs! They will create a soundtrack and become storytellers, making up their own bug stories and telling them to their friends.

Year 1 and 2 will be attending an online workshop with author Annemarie Anang where she will share and talk about her book, 'I am Nefertiti'. This workshop will be followed up by activities in class throughout the week and will include music making, drama, storytelling and poetry writing. These poems will be made into anthologies and placed into class book corners to share along with the collaborative circle stories that the children will create.

Why not get involved at home by making up stories together and telling them using character voices!

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

Early years have had a very busy week! Starting off with writing our fact files about polar animals such as penguins, polar bears and arctic foxes. We then started our expedition to China, learning about Chinese New Year and how people around the world celebrate and why. In maths, we explored number 7, looking at formation of 7, addition to 7 and days of the week.

Next week, we will continue to look at Chinese New Year, exploring the story of The Great Animal Race, and the Chinese zodiac. In maths, we will be looking at height and time, discussing what time is and the passage of time, ordering and sequencing events using language relating to time i.e. first, then, next etc and comparing height.

Please could you continue to practise phonics at home, particularly focusing on digraphs (two letters, one sound) and trigraphs (three letters, one sound) using the sounds sent home. We will be assessing their phonic knowledge next week and updating their reading books accordingly. When practising keywords, please ensure your child is entirely confident and can recognise their key words before sending any slips back. We aim to check keywords weekly, but will send home their current sheet again if they are unsure.

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

Early Years Team

Year 1

In our project lessons this week the children have been very excited to begin writing their story of the 'Billy Goats Gruff'. We have focused on the beginning, build up and the problem of the story and the children have had the chance to include the adjectives we have been looking at to describe the characters.

This week in maths we have been focusing on number bonds to 20 using tens frames to support the children's understanding. We have been writing addition number sentences as well as working in partners to complete practical tasks with tens frames and counters. Next week we will be moving onto doubling numbers!

Have a wonderful weekend!

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

This week in Year 2 we have been writing diary entries as if we were passengers on board the Titanic. We have revisited the suffixes **er** and **est** for example smart + er = smarter and tall + est = tallest. In writing we are encouraging the children to be more independent in using previous learning such as the use of conjunctions for example **because**, **and** as well as **when** and **that**.

In maths this week we have moved on to multiplication and division. We have recapped equal groups and what this means. We have been using repeated addition to write number sentences such as $5 + 5 + 5 = 15$ and have introduced the 'x' symbol to show multiplication.

Have a lovely 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 ⭐

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 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 take pride in my work

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

Ember the Excellence
Dragon



We are the best we can be

Diary Dates

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