



The Herald

6th February 2026

This week we have been celebrating National Storytelling week. This is part of the National Year of Reading and we will be taking part in activities throughout the year.

Monday to Thursday this week there were 70 minutes lost due to lateness. Thank you for the big improvement on last week.

There is lots going on next week with project outcomes, Internet Safety Day and the Valentines Disco. All the dates are on our website at:

<https://www.castlehillinfantschool.org/calendar>

We also have an INSET day on Friday, so the children's last day this half term will be Thursday.

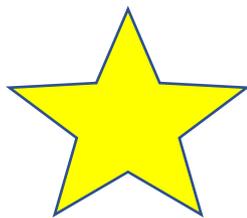
This afternoon the children in Key Stage 1 have a club letter for next half term. I would like to thank the staff who have volunteered to run a club, providing extra-curricular opportunities for the children.

At half term we say goodbye to Miss Hill. I would like to thank her for all she has done to establish our Willow Room provision. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours. We will be welcoming Miss Cox to the school team. Many of you will know her from the Magna after school club.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fitz

Class Stars of the Week



Noah
Elliot
Ava
Alyssia
Harper I
Naseem



Mrs Fitz's Star of the Week



Tristan





This week has been a week packed full of storytelling both in the classroom and on the playground, inspired by the pre-recorded videos and virtual workshop that the children took part in! Hopefully you have seen the storytelling ideas sent home this week and enjoyed trying something together. The children have worked collaboratively like Cosmo, showing our value of community, in the drama they have taken part in and the music making. They have also felt good about themselves like Sparkle, our self-esteem value dragon, when generating their own poems. Look out for these in book corners and the school library!



LIBRARY NEWS!

I am excited to announce that I will be opening **the school library every Friday from 3.15pm to 4pm** for you to come and visit with your child **starting from Friday 27th February**. Why not come and choose a new book together or share a book before going home. Short of time? Just pop in when you can and help encourage a love of reading for pleasure. **Entry to the library can be made through the school office once you have picked up your child**. I hope to see you there!

Mrs Cameron

Up-coming events:

5th March - World Book Day – Dress up as your favourite character from a book

Early Years

We have had a busy week continuing our learning all about China and Chinese New Year. We have revisited the story of The Great Animal Race, acting out the events of the race! We have used this learning to label the animals of the Chinese Zodiac and think about what year we were born in.

In RE we have been listening to the Stories that Jesus told – The Boy Who Cried Wolf and The Good Samaritan. We had some lovely discussions around what we learn from stories and exploring the meaning of the word 'moral'. This linked nicely with National Storytelling week where the children have been sharing their favourite stories with one another.

In maths next week, we will be exploring and learning about the number 8. We will be looking at different ways of making 8 and learn about octagons. In phonics we will be reviewing our learning so far as we have now completed phase 3 sounds. Please look at the sounds in the zippy wallet with your child as they are getting trickier and any recall and support at home will really help your child with remembering them.

The children have been working very hard to prepare for our project outcome and are excited to share their learning with you on Thursday 12th February at 9am. We hope that you can make it.

Please remember that you can access Purple Mash using the log in details in the back of your child's home learning diary. When selecting the school, please make sure that you click on the one with a school logo. If you have any problems, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to help.

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

Early Years Team

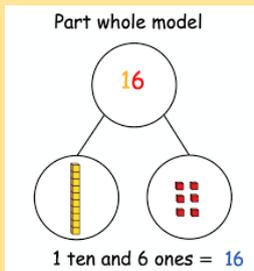
Year 1

We've had a very exciting National Storytelling Week in Year 1! To start the week, we read and discussed the story 'I am Nefertiti'. The children shared some great ideas about the story. We then took part in a workshop with the author of the story and finished the week by creating a soundtrack for the story. The children have loved the activities!

In project the children have been finishing their story writing using all of their planning to help them. They have illustrated their work and produced a front cover. The children have also finished making their puppets by joining and decorating them to make them look like their design! They are very excited to share these with you next week at our project outcome!

Just a reminder the project outcome takes place on **Wednesday 11th February 9:00-9:30am**. This outcome will see each group perform their version of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' multiple times, so parents are welcome to move around the hall, Birch and Rowan classrooms to see as many performances as they wish! We look forward to seeing lots of you then.

In maths we have been going over doubles and near doubles in more depth to help with consolidation. The children have also practised some more addition within 20 using part-whole models.
E.g. $10+6=16$



Have a wonderful weekend!

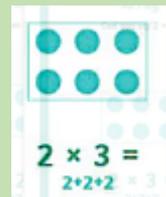
The Year 1 Team

Year 2

The children have put their learning into action this week and have been working incredibly hard. In English, they successfully included contractions in their writing after researching the lifeboats on the Titanic and learning how the tragedy unfolded when the lookouts first spotted the iceberg.

Next week, we will be adding the suffixes *-ful* and *-less*. E.g the passengers felt hopeless waiting for help. We will also be exploring causes, focusing on what caused the ship to sink and the impact this event has had on ship safety today.

In Maths, we have been making arrays to explore addition and multiplication sentences. Next week, we will be learning about the 2 times table, as well as doubling and halving.



Just a reminder, Oxford Owl books are available online for your child to read at home, as per our homework policy.

We have had some wonderful home learning so far! The deadline for their home learning is Monday as we need time to display the whole ship ready for our outcome. If you need a new box or a reminder of what room your child is designing, please speak to your class teacher. Here is a previous display from last year which we would like to replicate.



Just a reminder that we have our **Iceberg Ahead** project outcome next Wednesday at 2.30pm. We look forward to sharing the children's fantastic work with you during their exhibition.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,
The Year 2 Team

Castle Hill Friends

💖 Castle Hill Friends – Valentine's Disco Countdown! 💖

We're officially less than one week away from our fabulous Valentine's Disco on Thursday 12th February! Tickets are live on the Castle Hill Friends website — grab yours and get ready for one of the most loved events of the school year. We're so excited to make it a magical evening for the children.

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



🔮 Wear What You Love Day! On the same day, children can come to school dressed as whatever or whoever they love 💖 for a £1 donation. Superheroes, sparkles, football kits, princess dresses or just a fav outfit — anything goes! Donations can be made online with your disco ticket or at the classroom door.

🍰 Bake Sale – This Tuesday!

Join us on Tuesday for a delicious bake sale, perfect for a sweet treat and any last-minute disco ticket purchases!

🌿 Forest FUN-draising

We'd like to let you know that our current goal for fundraising this year is towards the Secret Garden at the top of the playground. If you know anyone in landscaping or garden design who might be happy to offer or donate time or materials, we'd love to hear from you — every little bit helps us create something truly special for the children 🌟

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 Community. With this value we are looking to develop our collaboration and respect others. We are particularly thinking about:

I respect others

As part of this we are going to be working on saying please and thank you

Cosmo the Community
Dragon



We work collaboratively

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