



# The Herald

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

It has been lovely to have the whole school family in this week. It is amazing how quickly the school gets back into its routines.

In the summer our Forest School leader left but I am pleased to share with you that Mrs Fulbrook begins her training today. We are aiming for Forest School to begin in January and that all children will get an opportunity over the Spring and Summer terms. From the parent surveys, Forest School is clearly valued and it is great that we can continue to provide this.

The Castle Hill Friends (PTA) do an amazing job of raising money for the school so we can enhance the experiences of all children who come here. They also run events such as discos and the annual Christmas Santa trail. I know that they always welcome new members, either on the committee or as helpers for specific events. If you would be willing to be a part of this group, please email them at [castlehillfriends@outlook.com](mailto:castlehillfriends@outlook.com) or message them on the Castle Hill Friends Facebook page.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Fitz  
Headteacher

## Early Years

What a fantastic start to school! The children have been amazing and are settling so well. To celebrate the end of their first full week, the children have all received a book for them to keep and enjoy at home with you.

This week, we introduced the first of our school values with Cosmo the Community Dragon, discussing as a class what this means and how we can work collaboratively. The children have been great at showing this by sharing and helping each other, especially at tidy up time. We will be introducing our next 2 values next week with Astro the Aspiration Dragon and Sparkle the Self-esteem Dragon, talking about how we can achieve anything if we try our best and how we can feel good about ourselves.

Just a reminder that we have our parent welcome meeting next **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 2.45pm**. We hope you are able to come along as we will share more details with you about the coming year and Early Years curriculum.

Please remember to start bringing in the 'All About Me' boxes next week, remembering not to put anything too precious inside as they will be kept in school for a few weeks.

Please can you ensure that your child has a named water bottle and that it only contains **water**. We ask that the children do not put their bottles in their book bags as they can leak and once books start to come home this can cause damage to them. Many thanks for your assistance with this.

Next week we will be continuing our Marvellous Me project, exploring our emotions and learning some strategies of how to deal with how we are feeling. We will be learning some animal positions in our

Kinetic Letters to make our bodies strong for writing and enjoy making vocal and body percussion sounds in phonics.

We are so proud of all of the children and can't wait to see them next week!

Early Years Team

### Year 1

We have had a really good week this week and settling into Year 1 is continuing to go well!

Thank you to all of you for attending our welcome meeting, we hope that it was informative. Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any queries.

In our project work this week the children have been discussing senses and which body parts are linked to each sense.

In maths the children have been learning 1 more than a number within 10 and revisiting number order to and from 10.

Next week we will be starting our new project 'Stanley saves the seas'. It has been an exciting project to plan so we hope that the children enjoy it and come home telling you all about it!

Our P.E. days will be **Thursday and Friday**. This may occasionally change, so we would ask that children leave their P.E. kits in school. They will be sent home each half term.

Please bear with us if home time is taking a little longer whilst we get to know you all. The children are lined up in no particular order and we ask that they do not leave the door unless the adult dismissing is able to locate the adult picking them up.

Thank you for your support.

We hope that you have a fantastic weekend,

Year 1 Team

### Year 2

Next week:

We are starting a brand-new project 'The Journey Home' next week. We will start the project with a visit from Marion, who is from the Basingstoke Conservation Society, where she will discuss how even the smallest of changes can have an effect on local habitats. The children will learn new vocabulary which will be attached to the newsletter. They will have the chance to debate topical climate issues using the project vocabulary.

In maths, we are going to continue our place value work by partitioning numbers to 100 and placing numbers to 100 on structured and unstructured number lines.

We will be teaching R.E once a week, starting with our unit on 'Community'.

### Other

Our P.E. days will be **Mondays and Tuesdays**. This may occasionally change, so we would ask that children leave their P.E. kits in school. They will be sent home each half term.

In order to increase independence, please could we ask that children walk up to school with their teacher on their own in the morning.

Homework has been set on Purple Mash this week. Please choose activities, don't do them all!

**Just as a reminder, we have our Year 2 project outcome on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm. Parents are encouraged to help their child create a piece of artwork inspired by a mixed media artist, Finnabair. Afterwards, parents are then invited into the hall where we will have a Year 2 welcome meeting about upcoming projects, dates and trips.**

### **School Notices**

#### **Traffic Awareness**

It has been brought to the attention of the office that there have been cars parked across the pedestrian crossing in the car park. On one occasion a parent was crossing behind the car parked in the middle of the crossing which rolled back and almost ran into the parent and child.

Can we please remind you that all pedestrian crossings and pathways should remain clear for the safety of parents and children.

#### **Lunchtime Staff Vacancy**

We have a vacancy for a responsible, calm and caring person to work with and support our friendly and hard-working lunchtime supervisory team. The hours are 11:45am to 1:00pm. If you are interested, please pop into the office for an application form.

#### **Winklebury Way – Carriageway Resurfacing works**

We have been informed by Hampshire County Council that throughout September they will be carrying out carriageway resurfacing works in Winklebury way, Basingstoke from Ashwood Way roundabout to the junction of Dover Close.

The works will take place in 2 Phases;

Phase 1 (Night time works) will start on the 12<sup>th</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> September and the road will be closed off between the hours of 22:00 – 06:00.

Phase 2 (day time works) will begin on the 19<sup>th</sup> September to 27<sup>th</sup> September and the road will be closed off between the hours of 07:30 – 18:00.

The pedestrian access will still be available at all times. For more details on how the road may affect your journey please click on the below link.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/plannedmaintenance>

### **Castle Hill Friends**

**\*\*\*DISCO!\*\*\***

We are happy to announce that the Halloween Disco will be returning on the last day of term Thursday 24th October.

**Year R 16:00-17:00**

**Years 1&2 17:10-18:10**

Tickets are on sale now and are £3 per child with an automatic 50p discount applied for siblings at our school.

You can buy your tickets via our website [www.pta-events/chf-castlehillfriends](http://www.pta-events/chf-castlehillfriends)

As always please let us know if you would be willing to chaperone events and we will add you to the Volunteer Pool what's app group.

**\*\*ASDA\*\***

At the moment Asda are helping schools fundraise with their "cashpot for schools" scheme.

If you opt in via the ASDA rewards app ASDA will donate 0.5% of your shop to your pta. They also donate £1 every time someone opts in!!!

Please make sure to select Castle Hill INFANTS, our postcode is RG23 8BN.

Thank you to those who have seen this amazing fundraising opportunity and signed up already.

Keep an eye on our socials for updates on upcoming events

[www.facebook.com/castlehillfriends](http://www.facebook.com/castlehillfriends)

[www.instagram.com/castlehillfriends](http://www.instagram.com/castlehillfriends)

[castlehillfriends@outlook.com](mailto:castlehillfriends@outlook.com)

**Stars of the Week**



Layla-may  
Ivy P  
Tommy P  
Zion Dudley



**Diary Dates**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Year 2 Project Outcome and Welcome Meeting for parents 2:30pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Early Years Welcome Meeting for parents - 2:45pm