



Castle View Primary Academy
Keswick Road, Lancaster, LA1 3LE

Acting Headteacher: Huw Rose
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Friday Newsletter – 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we're at the end of January already! It has been another vibrant and purposeful week here at Castle View. From hosting colleagues for our regional Oracy Showcase to seeing our Year 5 pupils embrace the creative challenges of the Taskmaster project, the academy has been a hive of energy and eloquent discussion. It is always a joy to see our children growing in confidence, whether they are debating ideas or conducting scientific investigations. I hope you enjoy reading through this week's highlights and celebrating the wonderful achievements of our pupils.

It's Time to Talk



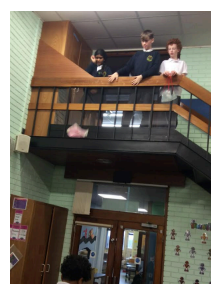
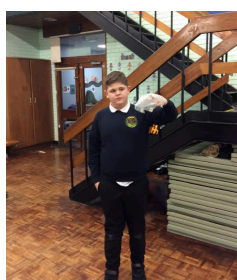
Every Tuesday, we have a whole school talk assembly where we focus on Oracy learning. This encourages children to articulate their ideas, engage with different perspectives, and develop their critical thinking skills.

This week we explored the question: **'Is it always fun to be kind?'**

We would love families to discuss this with children at home too.

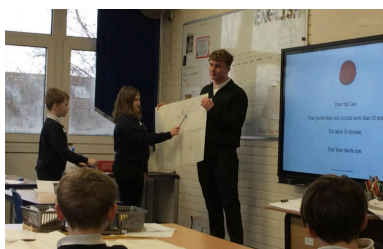
Year 6

Year 6 have been investigating air resistance using parachutes they have made in their science lessons.



Year 5 - Taskmaster Project

This week we were visited by Lancaster University students to launch our Taskmaster project. This involves taking part in group tasks and working together to solve challenges in a creative way. The tasks link to democracy and rule of law and have a competitive element to it. The class is competing against other local schools for the chance to enter the final later this year. Big prizes could be won.



REMINDER - PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR CLASS ASSEMBLY ON WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY AT 9AM.

Fantastic Behaviour for Learning Awards

Reception/1/2 – Esme
Year 3/4 – Alfie S

Year 5 – Ruby S
Year 6 – Junior





EYFS and KS1

What a busy and enjoyable week our Reception and KS1 children have had!

In Reception, the children continued learning about animals and their habitats. They painted wild jungle animals, sorted animals into their correct habitats, and explored capacity in Maths by predicting and measuring the contents of different containers using water and pasta.

KS1 children continued their science work on materials, carrying out simple tests on a range of fabrics.

To end the week, everyone took part in the RSPB Big Birdwatch, making natural bird feeders and counting and identifying birds using tally charts.



Masters of the Art of Gradient in Y3/4!

In Year 3&4, this week we have been exploring gradients of colour! We experimented with making primary colours lighter, by adding different amounts of white paint, and also darker, by adding black paint!



Superstars Certificates for outstanding work

The following children have all worked their socks off in class and have been awarded a certificate for their great attitude to learning:

Miss Spencer – Denny and Master Mrs Hamer – Alfie and Klay
Miss Mills – Iris and Jayden Mrs Robinson - James and Jayden



Year 6 SATs Information: Essential Viewing

For the parents and carers of our Year 6 pupils, Mrs Robinson has uploaded a comprehensive SATs Information Video to Google Classroom. This presentation covers the essential details regarding the upcoming assessments, including the schedule, the format of the papers, and what your child can expect during the week. We highly recommend taking a few minutes to watch this so we can work together to support the children during this period. If you have any difficulties accessing the video or logging into Google Classroom, please do reach out to the school office or Mrs Robinson directly—we are more than happy to help.

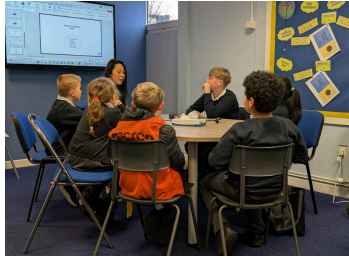
YOUNG VOICES - 6th February!

Just a couple of reminders for those travelling with us to Manchester next Friday. All children need a packed lunch and a packed tea. We will be departing from school at 11 am and returning at 10.15pm. (Please follow school social media for traffic updates) All pupils must wear school uniform and have a plain white t-shirt without logo for the performance. Also please pack extra drinks as it will be a long day. Thank you.



Outstanding Oracy at Castle View

On Thursday 29th January, we were delighted to open our doors to colleagues from across our Cidari Multi-Academy Trust for a dedicated Oracy Showcase Day. As a leading school in this area, it was a proud moment for our pupils to demonstrate how we prioritise "learning to talk" alongside "learning through talk."



Visitors observed our classrooms in action, witnessing firsthand how structured talk boosts our children's self-confidence and self-esteem. By equipping our students with the tools to articulate their ideas clearly and listen with empathy, we are providing them with a vital life skill that transcends the classroom. The feedback from our visiting schools was glowing, with many noting the poise and eloquence of our young speakers.

A Respectful Request: Pupil Safety



Finally, I must include a polite but firm reminder regarding parking outside the school gates. Please ensure that you **do not park or pull up on the yellow zig-zag lines** on the road adjacent to the academy. These markings are there specifically to maintain a clear line of sight for our children and families crossing the road. Parking here creates a significant safety hazard, and the well-being of our pupils is our absolute priority. We thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our school community safe.

Dates for this half term:

Wednesday 4th February - Year 5 Class Assembly
Friday 6th February - Young Voices (Full Day)
Friday 13th February - Deadline to sign up for the Y5/6 Residential trip.
Friday 13th February - School closes for half term
Monday 23rd February - School opens for Spring 2

Kind regards,

Mr H. Rose
Acting Headteacher