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Newsletter

12th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Lots of exciting events to look out for this term. Please make a note of the dates opposite. Don't forget to check out your child's Class Pages on the school website to see what the children have been up to this half term.

Halloween Disco - Thank you to all helpers!

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Halloween Disco. The costumes were amazing and we enjoyed seeing the children having such fun. Some great dance moves too! A special shout out to the parents who are part of our fundraising team who organised this event.

Year 6 - Residential to Grenville House

The children have had a wonderful time on their recent residential trip. A very brave bunch, doing all sorts of challenging activities! Check out the photo's on their class pages on our website to see what they have been up to!

Parents' Evenings - w/c 18th November

Parents' evening appointments are now available to book.

Invites have been emailed to parents/carers - if you have not received an email, please check your junk folder. If you still have not received it, please contact the school office for assistance.

Christmas Market

This year's Christmas Market is being held on Thursday 28th November between 3.30pm and 5pm. There will be a range of external stallholders selling Christmas gifts, decorations etc, games and competitions and a performance from the school choir. We are also hoping to have a 'Special' visitor - Ho Ho Ho!

Refreshments will be available and we would appreciate donations of cakes/cookies etc from all year groups if possible please. These can be brought to the School Office on the Thursday morning.

Dates For Your Diary

15th Nov - Children in Need (Wear spots!)

w/c 18th Nov - Parents' Evenings



Christmas events



28th Nov - Castle Christmas Market 3.30pm

11th Dec - EYFS Nativity - 9.30am & 3.45pm - Raffle & Refreshments will be available

16th Dec - Christmas Service - 2pm at St Peter's Church, all parents welcome

17th Dec - Craft Day (more information to follow)

18th Dec - Christmas Lunch

19th Dec - Last day of term - children can bring their pyjama's for a relaxing afternoon of film.

7th Jan - Pupils first day back to school

Children in Need - 15th November **'BE SPOTACULAR'**

In line with the theme this year we would love to see children come to school in something spotty.
As spotty as you like!



As we are a cashless office, please click on the following link to make a donation via Just Giving. Thank you.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/castle-primary-school-1730813920704?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fcastle-primary-school-1730813920704&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

Safeguarding News

Castle School is here to support your child to access the best from their learning. Within the school we offer additional help to achieve this as part of safeguarding our school community.

Young Carers in School – meet every Wednesday for ½ an hour of games, crafts and time to chat. Alternative weeks for KS1 & KS2, this gives those children who care for parents/siblings time to relax and enjoy time with others and realise they are not on their own.

Early Help for families who just need a bit more support through tricky times. It can be educational, physical or mental health, housing, debt, parental conflict, safety from in or outside the home.

Additional support from our Castle School website of organisations that are there to help and useful information.

Second hand school uniform is available free to anyone who needs it.

For any safeguarding concerns please contact : Mrs C Noble, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mrs J Gardner.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor.

Please refer to the email sent on 8th November which gives full details of the role.

All nominations should be received by Friday 22nd November.

Thank you.

If you require a printed copy of this Newsletter they are available from the School Office.

How good is your child's attendance?

Please can we remind parents that **we do not authorise holidays** unless in very exceptional circumstances. We appreciate holidays are much cheaper during term time but this is **not** considered an exceptional circumstance and any absence will be registered as unauthorised.

The link between attendance and educational achievement

A good education can be the cornerstone for future life opportunities. Missing school can leave gaps in knowledge and understanding and also place the pupil at a disadvantage in both their educational development and potentially in their eventual GCSE success.

We understand that on occasions absence will be unavoidable. However, our minimum expectation of attendance is 96%, unless there are justifiable medical reasons, and accompanying evidence for not being able to do so.

The school day has two attendance sessions

If your child seems unwell in the morning but seems better by lunchtime, please bring them into school for the afternoon session, this will help to keep your child's attendance as high as possible.

If your child ever has to have an emergency medical appointment, please ensure that you try to make it at the beginning or end of a school day, this way your child would only miss a maximum of half a day for the appointment.

Attendance Ladder



Admissions policy for 2026-27: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2026-27. The Local Authority is also consulting on its admission arrangements. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them. You can see our proposed policy at <https://castle-primary-tiverton.secure-primariesite.net/admission-information-and-policies/> or <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> Further information is here: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements The consultation runs until 10 January 2025. Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March next year. You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school.



If you require a printed copy of this Newsletter they are available from the School Office.