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Newsletter

9th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Lots of exciting activities to look out for this term. Please make a note of the dates opposite. Take a moment to look through the reports of last half terms trips/activities and remember to check out your child's class pages on the website for more pictures!

Halloween Disco

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 mention to a small group of parents who have organised this event, they are wonderful. We cannot thank them enough for the time and energy they put into these events. If anyone would like to join this group and help with future events please let us know, all help no matter how small is always appreciated.

Car Park

Please can we remind you that our car park is for drop off /pickup of children or official business at Sandcastles or Castle Primary School. Please do not leave your car in the car park for extended periods. Please can we also ask that you park considerately and in a sensible manner. The car park often gets congested especially during wet weather, please consider parking elsewhere and walking a short distance instead. Tesco have always been very obliging and it is not too far to walk. Thank you.

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 community here.

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.

Lantern Parade - Saturday 26th November - Year 5 Pupils Only

If your child is in Year 5 and would like to take part in the Lantern Parade this year please see the last page of this newsletter for further details.

Dates For Your Diary

18th Nov - Children in Need (Wear spots!)

“ “ - Whole School Flu Vaccinations

26th Nov (Saturday) - Lantern Parade - Year 5 Pupils

30th Nov - Christmas film night after school (info to follow)

8th Dec - EYFS Nativity at 3.30pm

13th Dec - Christmas Service 1.30pm at St Peter's Church, all parents welcome

14th Dec - KS1 to THS for 'Santa Saves Christmas'



15th Dec - Christmas Lunch

16th Dec - Last day of term

Children in Need - 18th 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!

We will have a collection box and all monies will be donated to Children in Need. Thank you.

Attendance for the Whole School = 94.56%

This is slightly below where we want to be. We would normally expect this to be around 96%. We understand that these are difficult times and there is a lot of illness currently circulating. Please help us by ensuring your child is not late to school and keeping all medical appointments etc out of school hours wherever possible.

We will be sending home email messages this week with your individual child's attendance figures.

What is the expected school attendance percentage?

An attendance rate of **95%** is generally considered good; this allows for children to miss 9.5 days across the school year.

"Absences add up! Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year."

Attendance Counts.



Mobile Phones

Please can we ask you to refrain from using your mobile phones whilst dropping off and collecting your children from school. We have a policy of no mobile phones in school for many reasons including safeguarding but we also want the children to be the main focus of parents attention. Nothing beats a quick hug and smile at the beginning and end of each day. Thank you.



African Drumming and Dance Workshop

As part of Black History Month we had a visit from the Zamble African Dance Company. The children learnt a lot about African culture and the villages the dance instructors came from. We had great fun learning some African dance routines.



EYFS - Exploring the changes of Autumn

Foundation children had a great time when they visited the park as part of their topic work. They collected leaves to make pumpkin masks and sticks to make hedgehogs!



Year 1/2 Museum Visit

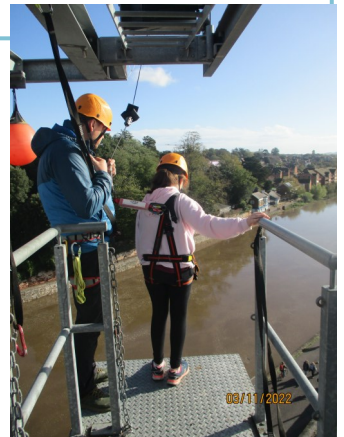
We had a great time at the museum! We learnt about food and farming in the past and had lots of opportunities to dress up, be hands on and ask questions!



Year 5 - Haven Banks

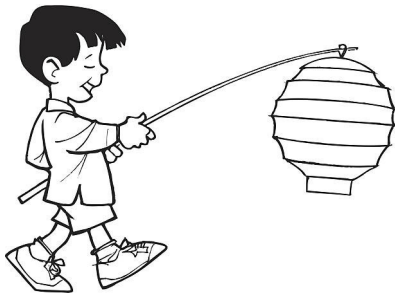
The children in Year 5 had a brilliant time at Haven Banks, Exeter. They rock climbed, did artificial caving, archery and some children were brave enough to do the jump of faith - a power fan jump from 60 foot high!

We look forward to taking all the other Year groups apart from Foundation at some point this academic year.



The Lantern Parade is Back!

Year 5 Pupils - Saturday 26th November



For the first time since 2019, Tiverton will be holding its annual Lantern Parade on Saturday 26th November. This has a lovely opening to the Christmas season.

The council has expressed concern that, due to its popularity, the parade had perhaps grown a little too large and so have asked schools to restrict numbers this year. Because of this, we have had to limit the parade to Year 5 only.

If you are available to accompany your child on the parade this year and would be able to take part in a Lantern making Workshop at school where you make the lantern that you will carry together then we would like to hear from you!

The Lantern workshop will take place straight after school next Tuesday, 15th November when you will learn how to make lanterns from willow. In order to attend the workshop, you must be able to also attend the parade with your child.

If you would like to attend the workshop and parade, please could you let us know at your earliest convenience by emailing your Year 5 class teacher. Please note though, due to the restrictions on numbers in the parade, we are only allowed to have 1 adult with each child. You will be unable to bring siblings on the parade. This will also apply to the lantern making workshop where we would ask that only 1 adult and no siblings attend as we are only able to supervise those children who are making the lanterns. Thank you.



If you would like a printed copy of this Newsletter please ask at the school office.

Data Protection : We have published a new Privacy Notice on our school website for parents/carers and pupils. This now includes details of the Third Party Processors the school uses in an Appendix at the end of the document.