

Castle Newsletter



Friday 7th January 2022
Headteacher Chris Baker
V 17 No. 16

Castle School
Cambridge

Dear Families

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the start of our new Spring Term. I hope that you all had a pleasant and relaxing break. It has been wonderful to see everybody this week and the term has started well. Good luck to Cambridge United this weekend with their FA cup visit to Newcastle. A number of staff and families are going and we wish them a safe trip and hope they can beat the Geordies!

As you know, we have implemented additional measures to keep our pupils, families and staff as safe as possible during this time of rising Covid rates. The measures include limiting the number of visitors coming into school and a return to holding meetings (such as Annual Reviews) remotely for the remainder of this half term. In addition, our staff are once again wearing face masks when supporting pupil arrivals and departures. We encourage our parents and carers to help us to keep everyone safe by doing the same. Secondary pupils who would like to wear masks in school are welcome to do so.

It saddens us that we have taken a step backwards in our move toward 'normality' but I am sure you understand the importance of keeping everyone as safe as we can. Please be aware that, depending on how rates develop, we may have to take further measures to keep the school open. These could include curtailing planned activities and temporarily moving some of our pupils to online learning. With your continued support, vigilance

and regular testing we hope this will not be necessary.

Support Available

These continue to be difficult and challenging times. If you are struggling financially or if your circumstances have changed recently; please consider applying online for free school meals via the link:

[https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Apply for Education Welfare Benefits](https://cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Apply_for_Education_Welfare_Benefits) or call 01223 703200.

If your family is having to self-isolate and is struggling financially please do let school know as support is available.

We also have some "sample" uniforms available to buy at a significantly reduced cost. If you are interested, please contact the office.

School Shop

Thank you to all of you who came and supported the school shop last year. We will be re-opening next week as a second hand art and craft shop with knick-knacks also available. As the half term progresses we will be having a valentines theme to proceedings. If you have any arts and crafts to sell in the shop, please get in touch. We will be looking for contributions to sell in the near future, information will follow. If you have not visited yet then please pop in to Arbury Court.

Phoenix Trust have already supplied us with bird feeders, a bird table and a hedgehog house ready for Spring when it arrives!

Bees Class News

Bees have started a new topic around blasting off into Space.



Students enjoyed exploring new textures e.g. a 'glove alien' and a crinkly space blanket during our space themed Touch and Groove session.



Circus Starr Show – 12th January

We still have a (very) small number of complimentary tickets left to the Circus Starr show on Wednesday 12th January.

Please contact the school office for your free tickets stating how many you would like (maximum 4 per family) and whether you would like to attend the 4.45pm or 7.00pm performance. Every member of the party aged four or over requires a ticket to enter the show. Tickets are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Once you have your tickets please contact the organisers (on 01260 288690) to let them know if you require a wheelchair space as there is limited availability.

The show will take place at West Road Concert Hall, University of Cambridge, 11 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP.

Balmoral Class News

A great first week back for Balmoral! We went to Cambridge Arts Theatre and had a wonderful time booing and cheering in the pantomime, Aladdin. We also started our work on Chinese New Year in cooking and enjoyed the first of this term's swimming sessions. Furthermore, all of us have worked really hard on our targets with a focus on signing, speaking and listening.



Best wishes

Chris

Chris Baker
Headteacher