



Dear Families

We have reached the end of our first full school week of 2023. It has been a busy and productive time as we settle into the Spring term. The weather is seasonably chilly so please remember to send your child in with appropriate (and named) clothing for this time of year. We are looking forward to an exciting half term with a creative focus.

Squirrels Class News

In Squirrels this term we are exploring Buildings and people through our story Jack and the beanstalk. We have been busy making our very own beanstalk for Jack to climb. Some of us have also had fun retelling the story using props and pictures. We also used our creativity in science by exploring 'Fizzy Lemons'- lemon halves, dish soap, paint and bicarbonate of soda. We loved watching the different colours fizz up as we mashed our lemons.



Wolfson Class News

Another busy term lies ahead for all members of Wolfson Class! This term, Wolfson Class will continue with their transition links to Cambridge Regional College including the Huntingdon Campus. This will continue each Thursday to help support our pupils with the next steps of their Post-19 education. Recently, pupils have been accessing creative workshops whilst at college. This includes arts and crafts and also music sessions!



Wolfson pupils have also been making the most of our therapeutic curriculum here at Castle School. Yoga has

been a very popular activity amongst our pupils. This is a fantastic physical activity which helps support our young people with their mobility, co-ordination and self-regulation.



In cooking this term, we will be exploring different foods from around the world. So far pupils have already been making cucumber tajin. The skills involved include being able to use a knife safely, follow a set of ingredients and cooking instructions. And of course, the ultimate taste test at the end!!!!



Wonder Week 30th January – 3rd February

We are very excited to launch our Wonder Week. This event is a celebration of our work and an opportunity to try out new creative experiences through arts, craft, dance, drama and music exploring the theme of “wonder”. Wonder Week provides a chance for artists and performers to work with our pupils and an opportunity to visit places in our community that inspire creativity. If any of you have hidden (or not) creative talents and you would like to run a session in school, please let us know.

Memory Garden

As you may remember, School is raising money to create a memory garden.

If you know anyone or any company who wishes to raise money or donate, the schools donation page, links to Castle's just giving page.

Please ask people to mention the memory garden when donating.

<https://www.castleschool.info/donations>

Veganuary

Veganuary is an annual challenge run by a UK non-profit organisation that promotes and educates about [veganism](#) by encouraging people to follow a vegan lifestyle for the month of January. The event began in 2014, participation has increased each year.

If you would like to sign up you can do so following the link below.

<https://veganuary.com/try-vegan/>

Free School Meals

If you believe that your child may be entitled to free school meals please follow the link below to the free school meals online application form.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Or contact the Education Welfare Benefits team on 01223 703200 or email

ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Spring Term 2023

Training Day	4 January*
Term Starts	5 January
Parent's Evening	6 February
Half Term	13 – 17 February
Term Ends	31 March

*School will be closed to pupils on Training Days

Travel to Lourdes with HCPT Group 104



The **Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT)** take thousands of children with additional needs on a pilgrimage holiday. We are a Catholic organisation who want **everyone** to be able to experience the beauty of Lourdes, but we want them to do it surrounded by friends, making memories, singing songs and having the holiday of a lifetime.



Group 104 are the Cambridge Group. We travel to Lourdes each Easter. In 2023, the trip runs from **9th-15th April**.

We are recruiting helpers!

This means getting involved with fundraising, attending training and coming along for our **fun-filled week in Lourdes**. You will meet and look after some very special young people and **help us give them an unforgettable week!**

What will I be doing?

Helpers work with the whole group to ensure all the children are kept safe and happy throughout the week in Lourdes. Specific tasks depend on the children's needs, but you will never be left alone and we will discuss any **training or mentoring** you might need beforehand. You will also have the opportunity to explore and experience Lourdes by yourself, on breaks or in the evenings on a rota.

How could it help me?

HCPT is a registered, large multi-national charity. If you are looking to strengthen your CV, or are considering a career in children's services, nursing, medicine or any other 'people-focussed' pathway, this opportunity could help you get there. Equally, if you are looking for somewhere new to bring your existing skills, please get in touch!

Is it right for me?

People travel to Lourdes for all sorts of personal reasons. You **do not** to be Catholic to travel with us, just open-minded and willing to get stuck in. Lourdes is a beautiful town and travelling with HCPT has something for everyone. With Group 104, you will make friends and memories to last a lifetime, whilst learning about yourself in a fun, inclusive and truly unique way.

What does an average day look like?

Every day is different, but we can guarantee you will be busy. Each day is filled with activities, such as trips to the zoo, paddling on the beach, snowball fights in the Pyrénées mountains, donkey rides, water fights, and of course visits to the beautiful Grotto in Lourdes. We also celebrate an inclusive mass on most days and learn about the story of Lourdes together. Evening activities include crafts, music and of course, the famous Torchlight Procession. Days are **planned carefully** to ensure everyone gets a break and can experience Lourdes fully. Helpers are **sociable** beings, and we love a good chat after a busy day with the children.



"It's basically a week where you just can't stop **SMILING!**"
- Ellie, aged 10

What do I need to do?

The volunteering commitment is low: we require you to be in Cambridge for 3-4 weekend days throughout the year for mandatory training and to meet the child you will be working with.

There is also a fare to be paid by helpers, but as a group we have access to grants and financial support - the earlier we know you need it, the better. Fares are likely to be around £700, inclusive of flights, full-board accommodation and all excursions for the week. **Please do not be put off by fares - we want you to come, and we need helpers!** You can also fundraise for your own fares and we will support you with this.

How do I sign up?

If you think Group 104 might be your next adventure, please email our Group Leader, Danielle, for more information/to sign up!

group104@hcpt.org.uk

We can't wait to hear from you!

Best wishes

Anne