



Dear Families

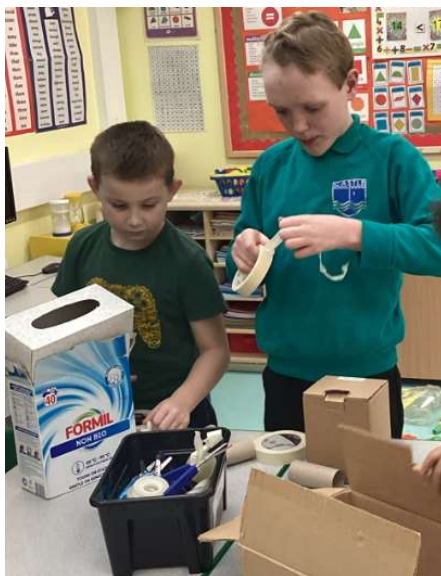
We are at the end of another exciting week at Castle School with much to report. I hope you have all managed to stay warm!

Highlights have included observing the GCSE art group starting their exam task. I am really looking forward to seeing the finished pieces. Some classes have been celebrating Chinese New Year with an exciting Attention Building “Bucket”.

Parents evening is on 6th February – details will be out next week, teachers are also busy writing mid- year reports these will also be with families before then, I am sure you will have lots to celebrate with your child.

Hedgehogs Class News

This term in Hedgehogs we have been learning about Buildings and People and started by reading ‘This is our house’ by Michael Rosen. We then talked about what our houses are like and have been designing and making them out of junk modelling. We have also started swimming again and have had some fun creativity sessions with Anthony. Some of our class have also joined the recorder club!





Edinburgh Class News

In Edinburgh class we have been reading the story "The Little Red Hen" and talking about how plants grow. This week we planted some cress seeds, we will watch it grow until it is ready to eat. We also worked together to create a Little Red Hen collage using lots of different types of fabric and paper.



We had a lovely trip to the Zoological Museum in Cambridge where we learnt about different types of birds. We were able to explore the feeling of different bird feathers and listen to the different sounds and songs they create. We had a lovely time.



Industrial Action

The National Education Union (NEU) has announced that its ballot of teacher members in England has met the thresholds required to commence industrial action.

The proposed date is Wednesday 1 February 2023. As yet we are not sure how this will affect our ability to safely open the school, as soon as we have confirmed details we will be in touch with you via letter.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

For our Volunteering section, 6th form silver DofE group will be supporting the charity Winter Comfort between now and July. In order to do this, we need to collect the following items:

Toiletries

- Men's roll-on deodorant
- Shaving foam or gel

Food items

- Tins of meat, fish, soup, vegetables, fruit
- Pasta and rice
- Microwave rice
- Pot noodles (or similar)
- Packs of cereal bars or biscuits
- Breakfast cereals
- Hot chocolate

If you have received any of the above or have them in your cupboards can you kindly donate them to Churchill class.

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>

Support for Families Struggling Financially

Have your circumstances changed recently? Have you checked if your child might be eligible for Free School Meals. Your child will get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit - but no element of Working Tax Credit - and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)) that does not exceed £16,190
- If you are supported under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit during the four week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less hours per week
- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400 (as from 1 April 2018)

Families who are currently paying for school meals will save around £450 a year for each primary school child if they are entitled to free school meals.

When your child is registered for free school meals, if your child is in Reception to Year 11, the school will also receive Pupil Premium, which is extra money to support children from families on lower incomes. If your child is in receipt of [universal infant free school meals](#) (where your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2), we still recommend you apply if you believe you may be eligible for free school meals, because the protection will continue beyond Year 2 and the school

will receive Pupil Premium funding to support your child's education.

You can apply for free school meals online at:

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

Accessible Holidays for People with Complex Disabilities

The holiday team at Sense have asked us to share the links below with our families who might be interested in booking a Sense holiday.

https://www.sense.org.uk/our-services/meeting-people/go-on-a-sense-holiday/?utm_campaign=13706480_Sense%20Active%20Newsletter%20-%20January%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Sense&dm_i=6RW,85RZK,WUM5HP,XFV1H,1

Ask the office or your class teacher if you need help making an online application.

There's also Mencap holidays for 8-18 year olds <https://oundlemencap.co.uk/our-holidays/>

Best wishes

Anne