



Welcome to the Summer Term! I cannot believe it is the last term of the year. I hope everyone had a good Easter break and enjoys Eid if you are celebrating this weekend.

We would like to welcome Charlotte Whysall, our new Headteacher, to our Castle family. We hope you make her feel welcome.



Hello....

It has been an amazing first week as headteacher here at Castle School, our learners and staff have made me feel very welcome and it has been a pleasure getting to know them. The warm and caring ethos in school is very evident and has certainly helped me to settle in and start to feel very much at home.

I wanted to share a few bits about myself with you as an introduction, but do hope to meet all our families over the coming months.

I am originally from a small mining community in South Yorkshire and while I am new to Cambridgeshire, I have lived and worked in Northamptonshire and Peterborough for the last 8 years. I am a mother to 3 daughters, 21, 18 and 16 and come to Castle from previous Headships in both Special Schools and Mainstream.

My career in Education over the last 20 years has been spent supporting learners with SEND and it remains both a great honour and a privilege. I am very lucky to be able to come to school every day to a job I love!

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone in our learning community (please do bear with me as I try to learn AND remember 400+ names and please do tell me your name and which child you 'belong to' when we do meet to help me out!). I hope to see some of our families at our Eid party on Monday and of course at other events within the summer term.

I want to finish my first message to you all by wishing Eid Mubarak to all our families and staff celebrating the end of Ramadan.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Charlotte

Balmoral Class News

It has been lovely seeing all the students back together again in Balmoral and hearing about all their Easter holiday activities. In Maths this week, we have been learning about positional language and how to give another person clear directions. We have put our positional language skills to the test by playing a number of fun games in groups, whilst also practising directions during bikes.

In PE, we have started working on the skills needed for athletics, focusing on the throwing technique needed for the javelin event.

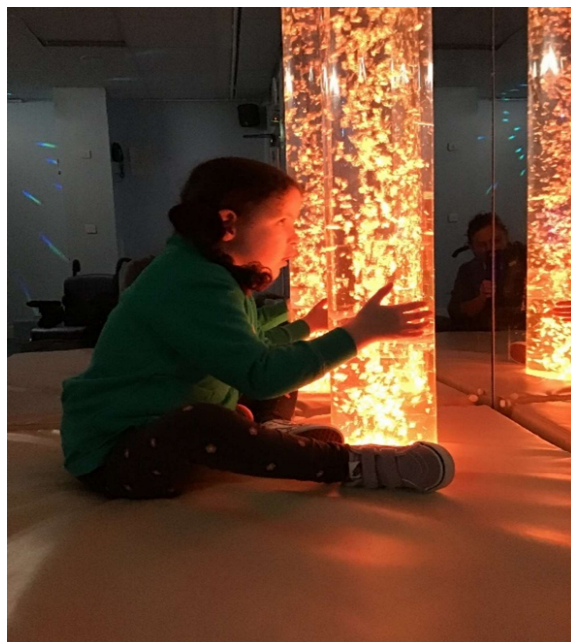


Some of our students in Balmoral tried some 'Transient Art' this week as part of our Key Stage 3 Creative Carousel. They used resources to make collages in picture frames. However, the resources weren't stuck down, so students could create second and third versions of their work. The finished artwork was captured through a series of photographs.



Bees Class News

Bees have been using their vision to look towards lights and track the bubbles in the Explore room. They have also been exploring movement by feeling forwards, backwards and side to side motion on the swing.



Non-school Uniform

Next Monday is a non-school uniform day. Students are welcome to wear their new clothes or dress to impress.

We are also asking for food donations that we can then contribute to a local food bank. Just something small such as a can of soup, vegetables, box of cereal etc...

Eid Party - Monday 24th April

Please join us in the hall on Monday 24th April for our first ever **Eid Party**. There will be food and

drink, music, art and craft activities, dressing up, sensory activities and more. Drop in anytime between 9.30 and 11.30 to share some fun cultural activities with your child. All families are invited to join the fun (all faiths and no faith!) Wear your Eid clothes or dress to impress!



Come and join our Eid Party!

Monday 24th April in the hall

Drop in anytime between 9.30 and 11.30

**Food & drink, crafts, music, dressing up
& sensory fun**

Can you help us? Could you donate:

- traditional snack food to share
- Salwar kameez or other clothes for our children to try on (we will return these)

Speak to your class teacher or email kdocherty@castle.cambs.sch.uk

Industrial Action- Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May 2023

As you may be aware from the recent media coverage, the National Education Union (NEU), announced that they had secured the necessary support in a ballot for continued industrial action. This is a national dispute with the government, regarding pay and school funding. The NEU's dispute is with the government about the amount of funding schools receive for the education of the nation's children and is not a dispute with individual schools.

We have completed a risk assessment and feel that to maintain safety and wellbeing of pupils, school will be closed on both Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May 2023 will be necessary.

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

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

Preparing for Adulthood

<https://forms.office.com/e/DXS0VbZu6v>.

The survey will help shape what Preparing for Adulthood support, information and training will look like for parent carers and key education professionals working with our young people with Educational Health and Care Plans.

The Aim of Preparing for Adulthood is:

- Children, young people, families, providers, and partners can easily access a range of information to help understand options and make decisions.
- Children and young people feel listened to when making choices about employment, health and independence and community engagement.
- To enable young people to fulfil their potential and aspirations in employment, community engagement and health.
- Maximising employment, work-based learning routes to help young people to fulfil their potential and aspirations.
- Clear pathways, during key transitions for health, education/employment and independence and community engagement

Please do not hesitate to contact Martine if you need further information on Preparing for Adulthood. Her e-mail is: martine.simpson-thomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Best wishes

Charlotte

Charlotte Whysall

Headteacher