



Dear families,

The sun has finally got his hat on...Hip, hip, hip hooray!

We have been very fortunate with the weather this week, please remember to ensure your child has a hat with their name clearly labelled (if they will wear one) and sun cream in school.

Our students have had some amazing enrichment opportunities this week. Kettle's Yards ran a range of different art workshops and some of our students had the chance to practice their cycle skills with our Bike Ability group.

## Hedgehogs Class News

Hedgehogs have had a wonderful start to the summer term and have been making the most of the much needed sunshine. We have started our new book, 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers, and have enjoyed our sensory retelling of the story alongside learning about stars and the Universe through songs and creativity. In maths we have been learning about patterns and have been practising how to complete patterns using games on the board and making our own in art. In PE, Connie has been introducing athletics, and we have had to use balance and proprioception to run and jump over the hurdles as fast and effectively as possible. We have also been exploring fizzy fruits in curiosity club where we mixed bicarbonate of soda with the fruit and then added lemon juice to watch it bubble!



## Edinburgh Class News

After Easter we started a new topic book in Edinburgh class "The snail and the whale" by Julia Donaldson. During our creativity sessions we have been making a whale collage together. As part of this activity, we made choices between different colours or textures of paper and we enjoyed getting messy with glue and paint. Each week we have a lesson to enjoy a multi-sensory version of our story. We have lots of exciting objects to explore to support our understanding and increase engagement. This week we have a light up globe, a foamy sea (foaming bubble bath and water), a slimy snail's trail (hand lotion), trays of sand and lots of sound effects to listen to.



On Thursday we also took a trip to Milton Country Park with some of our friends from Pembroke class. Sadly, we did not find any snails, but we did get to see lots of other lovely wildlife. We enjoyed a walk together and stopped for a snack looking out over the lake. Such a lovely morning in the sunshine!

## Clothing Donation

Castle school are proud to be part of the Playmakers festival a project working with the Royal Shakespeare Company on the heart-rending, beautifully poignant, timeless classic 'Romeo and Juliet'.

We are using colour to identify as the 2 houses. If you can donate any clothing/ties/scarfs in either Green or Yellow all would be gladly accepted.



## 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://cambridgeshireself.achieveservice.com/service/Apply for Education Welfare Benefits](https://cambridgeshireself.achieveservice.com/service/Apply%20for%20Education%20Welfare%20Benefits)

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

A promotional poster for free school meals. It features a large white plate with the text 'free school meals' in orange and white. To the right is a white fork and knife. Below the plate is a photo of a smiling boy in a school uniform holding a plate of food. Text on the poster says 'could save you up to £450 a year per child'. At the bottom, it says 'To apply, visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals'.



If your child attends one of the following schools, you will need to apply direct to the school as they administer their own free school meal:

Elm Road Primary, Ramneth Junior School, The Nene Infant School, Thomas Clarkson Academy, Westwood Primary School,

City of Peterborough Academy, Gladstone Primary Academy, Newark Hill Academy, Stanground Academy, Thomas Deacon Academy, Welbourne Primary Academy.

*Charlotte*

Charlotte Whysall

Headteacher