

## Message from the Headteacher:

Welcome Back to a New School Year and our new style newsletter!



We are delighted to welcome all of our pupils, families, and staff back to Castle School. We hope you enjoyed the summer break and had the chance to rest, recharge and spend time together.

The start of a new school year always brings a sense of excitement and opportunity.

This term, as well as settling into new classes and routines, we are proud to be launching our refreshed school values:

- Be Kind
- Be Confident
- Be Creative

These values were shaped together with pupils, staff, governors and families, and they will sit at the heart of everything we do.

You'll see them celebrated in classrooms, assemblies and wider school life, guiding us as a community.



Over the coming weeks, pupils will take part in activities that help them live out these values in their learning, friendships and personal growth. We will also be sharing ways for families to join in, so that together we can support children to feel safe, happy and ready to succeed.

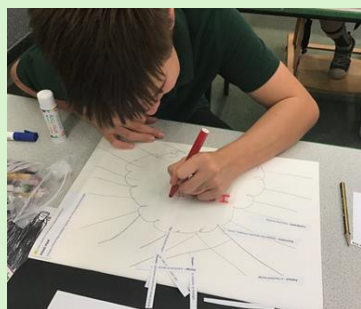
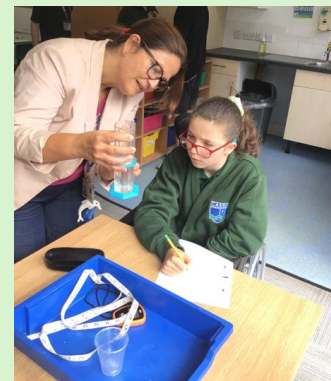
Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to the year ahead, full of learning, creativity and achievement.

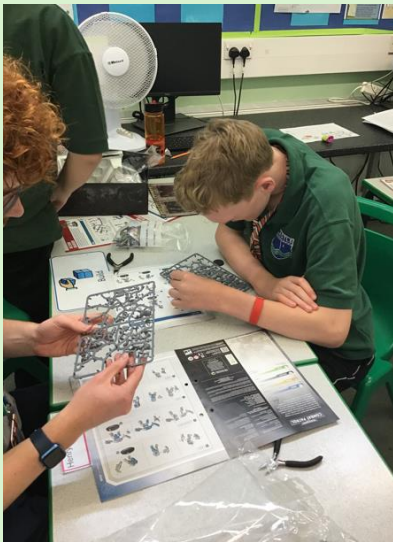
Charlotte.

## Whole School News:

The pupils are settling in well into their classes and routines across the school.

This week, we have had a range of activities from telling the time, swimming and science experiments. There is no class news this week, but please have a look at the lovely photos of our first week of learning.





## Getting in Touch

If you need to get in contact with us, you can reach us

via phone on: 01223 442400

via email by: [office@castle.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@castle.cambs.sch.uk)

Where our team of receptionists, Nicky, Mila and Fleur, will be happy to help from 8am – 4.30pm daily during term time.

During holidays the Office@ email will be monitored weekly.

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## Safeguarding:

Our safeguarding email inbox ([safeguarding@castle.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@castle.cambs.sch.uk)) is monitored daily, including during school holidays. However, if you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm, please call 999 or contact [Children's Social Care directly](#).

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## Medication

At the start of a new term, I thought it would be helpful to remind you of the statutory regulations we have in place regarding medication.

We cannot give any medication to a child without a signed Consent Form from parents/carers or if the information on the box/bottle does not match the protocol we have. We also must check that the medication is 'in date' and the correct name is on it.

I know you will support us in this and we in turn will ensure we inform you of any concerns. If you need to discuss a change to your child medication over the summer, please do not hesitate to contact school and speak with Mary Sewell, our Medical Welfare Lead.

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## School Transport

As always, we are working hard with Education Transport to ensure we support them in solving any issues as soon as possible.

I thank you for your patience and ongoing communication whilst we work with providers to ensure a smooth transition for our pupils and families.

If Parent/carers still need to make an application for SEN Post 16 transport, online would be the quickest way to apply.

Follow the link:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/transport](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/transport)

Please follow the link to the Post16 SEND pages and click on 'How to apply' button.

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## School Uniform

Please can you ensure uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name.

We have a small selection of preloved T-shirts and jumpers' school, if you are in need of these please contact your child's class teacher.

We welcome any pre-loved uniforms that your child may have grown out of. Please send them to school with your child or drop them in the school office.

### PE

PE kit to change into is part of our uniform, particularly those in the Secondary department. This does not need to be branded. A link to our uniform info is below:

[UNIFORM](#)

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## Financial Support for Families

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)

Please get in touch if you need help making an online application.

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## Nut Free School

Finally, can I remind you that we are a nut free school. We have members of our school community with confirmed and significant allergies so we thank you for your help in keeping everyone safe.

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## Term Dates 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025	
Training Day	1 September*
Term Starts	2 September
Half Term	27 - 31 October
Training Day	3 November*
Term Ends	19 December
Spring Term 2026	
Term Starts	5 January
Half Term	16 - 20 February
Term Ends	26 March
Training Day	27 March*
Summer Term 2026	
Training Day	13 April*
Term Starts	14 April
Bank Holiday	4 May
Half Term	25 - 29 May
Training Day	3 July*
Term Ends	20 July

\*School will be closed to pupils on Training Days