

Message from the Headteacher:



It has been another busy week here at Castle School, with lots of fantastic learning taking place across all pathways. Despite the mixed winter weather, our pupils have continued to shine – both indoors and outdoors – engaging in their lessons, enjoying enrichment activities and showing great enthusiasm for learning.

It has been wonderful to see our learning community continue to work together, supporting one another and coming together during both happy moments and more challenging times. This sense of care, kindness and togetherness has created so many smiles, moments of curiosity and achievements – big and small – across the school.

This weeks 'Thought of the Week' is "I can enjoy stories."

This week, our 'Thought of the Week' reminds us of the joy and comfort that stories can bring. Stories help us to explore emotions, build imagination and connect with others.



Whether it's through listening, looking at pictures, acting out scenes or using sensory resources, we are encouraging all our pupils to experience and enjoy stories in ways that are meaningful to them.

This weeks 'Theme of the Week' has focussed on this coming Sundays 'Winnie the Pooh Day' on the 18th January 2026.

To celebrate Winnie the Pooh Day, we have spent time talking about friendship, kindness and helping others, just like Pooh and his friends do!

It has been a lovely opportunity to celebrate the magic of storytelling and the important messages it brings about friendship, belonging and being kind to one another.

We would love families where they are able to continue these conversations at home too, perhaps by sharing a favourite story together, talking about the characters and how they help each other, or celebrating small acts of kindness you notice each day.

Wishing everyone a lovely week ahead, full of stories, imagination and smiles 😊

Charlotte Whysall

Squirrels Class News:

In Squirrel's class, we have been enjoying exploring our class story Noah's Ark together. The children have loved bringing the story to life during our sensory story sessions, where they acted out the journey of Noah, the animals, and the great big ark. There was plenty of excitement as animals climbed aboard two by two and the rain began to fall!



The story didn't stop there, during guided play time, the children revisited Noah's Ark in their own ways, building boats, role-playing characters, and retelling parts of the story through play. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they shared ideas, explored textures and resources, and worked together.



Wolfson Class News:

Wolfson class has been very busy this week doing some fantastic work during work related learning. Some of our students went to Phoenix Trust where they were able to practice their cutting and measuring skills whilst others stay at school practicing their hairdressing skills.



Also, this week we brought back staff lunches which the students enjoyed preparing and they were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Well done, Wolfson!





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.





Evidence For Learning Drop-In Session

Having issues accessing Evidence for Learning?

Need to know how to use a function on Evidence for Learning?

Come along to our EFL drop-in session!

Ethan, our IT expert will be on hand to try to help with your EFL troubleshooting questions.

Tuesday 20th January

10am - 12pm

Castle School - Main Site

No need to register. Just turn up!



Friends of Castle School Charity

January Meeting Date:

Thursday 22nd January

10.30 – 12.00pm

(In Person, Main Site)

Come and support our school!

All parents/carers welcome.

