



# CASTLE NEWS

Friday 30th January 2026 V21 No.19

[www.castleschool.info](http://www.castleschool.info)

Our thought of the week is:

***'I can join a celebration'***

## Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards the end of January, there is a subtle but welcome shift in the days around us. The evenings are beginning to hold onto the light for a little longer, and in the school grounds we can see early signs of what is to come, small buds forming on trees and new growth quietly pushing through. These changes may seem small, but they remind us that progress often happens steadily and in its own time.

In school, we see this same sense of gentle growth every day. Pupils continue to develop confidence, curiosity and independence in ways that are personal and meaningful to them, supported by the care and patience of our staff.

### **Thought of the Week**

*Chinese New Year*

This week, pupils will be learning about Chinese New Year, a celebration that focuses on new beginnings, hope and coming together. Through stories, music, colour, sensory experiences and shared activities, pupils will explore this festival in ways that suit their individual needs and communication styles.

### **Theme of the Week**

*I can join a celebration*

Our theme encourages pupils to experience what it means to be part of a celebration in a way that feels right for them. Whether this is actively taking part, watching from a comfortable space, or engaging through familiar sensory experiences, every form of participation is valued and celebrated.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another week of learning, connection and shared moments at Castle School.



Charlotte Whysall

## Finches Class News

Finches class have had a wonderful start to 2026!

We have been exploring our new topic 'In the Home'. Finches class have enjoyed exploring the sensory story of 'Goldilocks' in class, learning about BIG and small furniture within the home and building on our counting skills by identifying how many bears are in the story.



This term we have also had a visit from two therapy dogs named Jess and Floss. Finches very much enjoyed meeting the therapy dogs and touching their soft fur. We are excited to get to know Jess and Floss and see them back at the Fields over the coming weeks.



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## Carisbrooke Class News

This term, Carisbrooke's learning has been centred around Animals and Their Habitats, and the students have shown lots of curiosity. As part of this theme, we have been exploring different animals and where they live, listening to our class story 'Oi Dog!', which talks about lots of different animals, exploring different habitats during our Bucket sessions, and going on trips to Pets at Home.



These real-life experiences have helped the students make meaningful connections and sparked lots of interest.

We are also delighted with the progress the students are making in their communication skills. They have been working hard on ordering their daily routines, confidently asking for support using words such as “help” and “more”, and creating simple sentences using photos from their week at school. It has been lovely to see their communication become more purposeful.



In PSHE, Carisbrooke have been practising important life skills through role-play, including visits to the dentist, hairdressers, and doctors. These activities help build familiarity, confidence, and understanding around real-world situations, supporting their independence and emotional wellbeing.





We are so proud of the progress the students are making and look forward to continuing to build on these skills next term.

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## General Messages



Free Parent/Carer Support Session



# Sign and Chat

**Come and learn and practice Makaton signs and visuals to use at home with your child.**

Led by Meriel Charlton, Specialist Teacher at Castle School

*All Welcome – Suitable for Beginners to Experienced Makaton Signers*

**All sessions are 10:30 – 11:30 am at the Castle School Main Site**

Session dates:

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

Please sign up to register your free place:

<https://forms.office.com/e/8Y3Bbu9H8T>





Free Parent/Carer Support Session



# Craft Morning

Led by Mary Sewell & Kathryn Langran

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**10 am - 12 pm**

**Castle School – Main Site**

Please come and join our fun craft morning.

Meet other parents/carers and have a chat whilst doing a fun activity.

For this session we will be painting Easter themed pictures on canvas.

Whether you have artistic skills or not – all are welcome!

No sign up required but please email [klangran@castle.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:klangran@castle.cambs.sch.uk)  
to say if you plan to attend.





# PowerHouseGames

**SUN 1<sup>ST</sup> FEB 2026**

11.30am - 1.45pm

## Come and join the fun!

- ✓ Join us for a fun-filled session at St. Faith's School, as we host an amazing inclusive event for children from across Cambridge
- ✓ Adapted games that EVERYONE can play!
- ✓ Special invitation for Castle School children and their families
- ✓ Families can take part in inclusive sport with participants of all abilities
- ✓ Free snacks and T-Shirt
- ✓ Sign up using the QR code below



**FIND OUT MORE**

[www.power2inspire.org.uk](http://www.power2inspire.org.uk)



16th - 21st February 2026



# TWILIGHT AT THE MUSEUMS



Plan your visit  
and sign up  
for updates



[museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/twilight](https://museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/twilight)

Come and explore Cambridge  
museums after hours this half term



@camunivmuseums University of Cambridge Museums



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## Useful Information

### **Safeguarding & Wellbeing**

If you have a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing, please contact:

*Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)*

safeguarding@castle.cambs.sch.uk

01223 442400

### **Family Support**

Our Family Support Team is here to help with:

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Emotional wellbeing
- Support at home

Email: familysupport@castle.cambs.sch.uk

### **✉ Contact Us**

Have a question? We're here to help:

office@castle.cambs.sch.uk

01223 442400

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### Term Dates 2025-26

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	