



# CASTLE NEWS

Friday 30th January 2026 V21 No.19

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

Our thought of the week is:

***'I can share my feelings'***

## Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As usual it has been another busy and positive week at Castle School, and I have been so pleased to see pupils across all pathways engaging in learning that supports not only their academic development, but their emotional wellbeing too. This week, learning has had a particular focus on feelings, emotions and storytelling, as part of National Storytelling Week. We have seen many lovely moments of connection, communication and care. Pupils have been supported to explore stories in a range of ways, through books, sensory storytelling, role play and shared reading, helping them to recognise, express and manage their feelings in ways that are meaningful and right for them.

### Thought of the Week

**"I can share my feelings."**

This week's Thought of the Week reminds us that our feelings matter and that there are safe, supportive ways to share how we feel. For some pupils this may be through words, signs or symbols; for others it might be through behaviour, facial expressions, music, art or movement.

Across the school, staff have been modelling emotional language, acknowledging pupils' experiences and helping them to feel listened to and understood. Supporting pupils to share their feelings is a vital part of building confidence, trust and positive relationships, and it has been lovely to see this in action throughout the week.

## Theme of the Week

### Feelings and Emotions

Our Theme of the Week has focused on feelings and emotions, explored in age-appropriate and highly personalised ways across all pathways.

Pupils have been learning to:

- recognise different emotions in themselves and others
- understand that all feelings are valid
- explore strategies to help regulate emotions
- develop empathy and awareness of how others may feel

Through stories, sensory activities, role play, visual supports and discussion, pupils have been supported to make sense of their emotions and develop skills that will support them both in school and beyond.

As part of National Storytelling Week, we were also delighted to welcome members of our local Rotary Club, who spent time reading with classes and sharing stories they enjoyed as children or with their own families. At our Fields site, we held a lovely bedtime story event, welcoming children and their families into school to share stories together. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the joy of stories as a community.

As always, thank you for your continued support and for working in partnership with us. Helping children and young people to understand and share their feelings is something we do best together.

**Charlotte Whysall**

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## Wren Class News

In Wrens Class, our learning has been centred around our topic, in the home. We have been exploring different shapes, such as triangles, rectangles, and squares, and used them creatively to design and make our own house pictures. The children have also enjoyed building a variety of structures using Lego and magnetic shapes, developing their imagination.



In Wrens Class, we love books and sharing stories together. We have especially enjoyed The Three Little Pigs, as a sensory story, which gave us lots of opportunities to engage using our senses and join in with the story. The children have also had plenty of chances to share stories with adults. To make reading even more exciting, a bear's house appeared in our classroom, creating a cosy and inviting space where we could read stories and explore books using torches.

Lucinda Heaton,  
Wrens Class Teacher

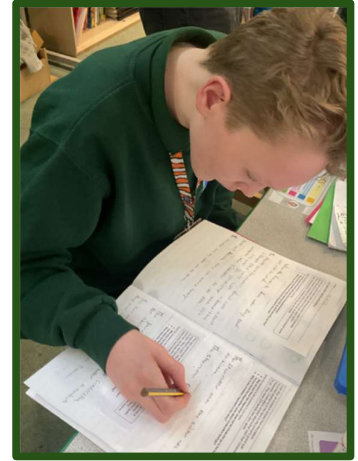
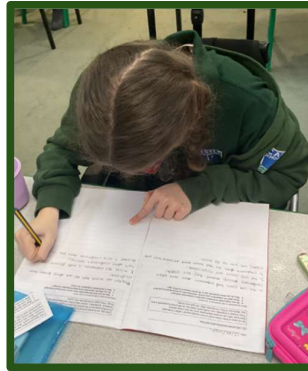
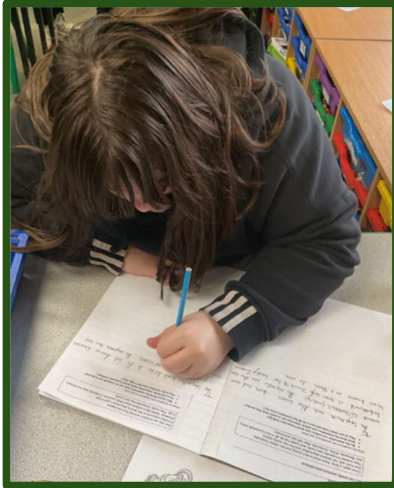


## Corfe Class News

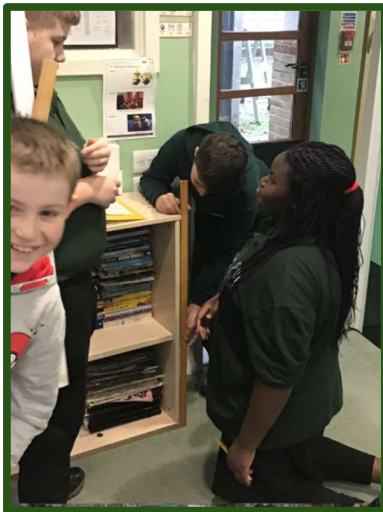
Corfe class have had an incredible half term. They enjoyed participating in the Power House Games earlier in the half term, where they took part in a range of different sporting activities which tested their senses, balance and hand-eye coordination. All pupils demonstrated great resilience and sportsmanship.



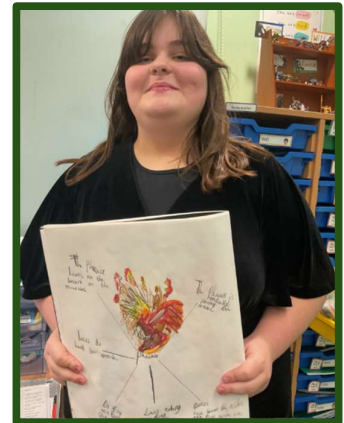
In English, we have enjoyed our text 'Revolting Rhymes' by Roald Dahl. In our reading lessons, we have been focussing on reading each revolting rhyme with expression and have become more confident in making inferences about different character feelings, actions and motives. In English, we have been learning about the structure of poems, using expanded noun phrases, spelling with a range of suffixes and have recently learnt about rhyming words and couplets. We are excited to plan and write our own Revolting Rhyme this week.



In Maths, we have had fun exploring, reading and using different measures. We demonstrated great curiosity and engagement when learning how to use rulers to measure length and height in cm, m and mm and when using a range of scales to measure mass in grams and kilograms.



In art, we have shown a great interest in our topic Mythical Creatures. We have discussed, chosen and researched our favourite mythical creatures. We have enjoyed creating our own mythical creature collages. This week, we had great fun creating texture with a range of different materials.



In Science, we have loved learning all about Space.



A highlight of our half term was virtually meeting our pen pals in Africa in Geography. Our pen pals have written letters to us to ask us about life in England. We recently wrote our own letters to send to our pen pals.

## Story telling at the Fields

At the Fields Site, as part of 'National Story Telling Week', we invited families of our young children to join us for some interactive stories after school. We encouraged everyone to participate in a call and response version of the 'Bear Hunt', along with 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Elmer'. We ended with a gentle 'Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?' - all snuggled up under blankets! It was lovely to have so many parents and siblings attend and it was a very enjoyable evening for everyone.



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## Balmoral Class News

This week Balmoral class have gone to dance studio, where the students have been acting different scenarios working on kindness and unkindness, working on interaction skills and teamwork.

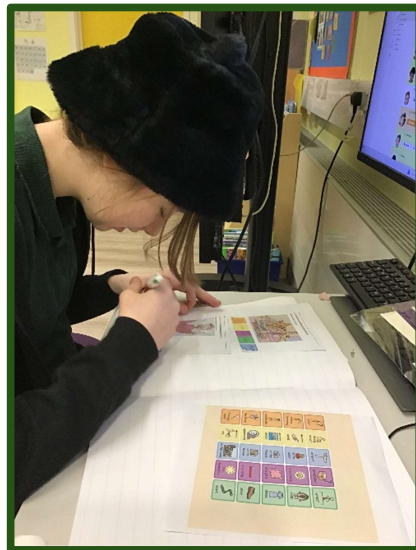
In Humanities we have been learning about some countries in Africa (South Africa and Kenya), their climate, main cities, wildlife and relevant famous people.

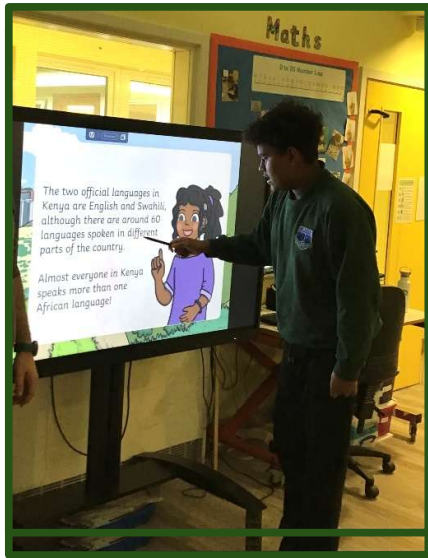
In Maths we learnt to measure different mass using grams and kilograms with weight scales solving simple problems.

We have been working on the theme of the week 'identify emotions', talking about our own feeling in different contexts and how our bodies react to these feelings.

In bikes some students continue doing a great job going offsite school to develop their road safety skills, rest of them are working at school these skills before they are ready to join the other group.

**Jesús Fernandez Borrego**









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>



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	