



# CASTLE NEWS

Friday 30th January 2026 V21 No.19

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

Our thought of the week is:

***'I can show someone I care about them'***

## Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this first half of the Spring term, it has been a mixed few weeks for our school community with moments of real joy and progress alongside a deep sense of sorrow following the loss within our Castle family.

We continue to hold Jeremy and his family in our thoughts. His funeral will take place during the half-term holiday, and his family have very kindly extended an invitation to members of staff and to any pupils and their families who may wish to attend. Should you like further details, please contact me directly:

[head@castle.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:head@castle.cambs.sch.uk)

### Thought of the Week

**"I can show someone I care about them."**

This week's Thought of the Week has encouraged pupils to think about the different ways we show care and kindness to others. For some, this might be through words; for others, through actions, gestures, sharing, helping or simply sitting alongside a friend. Across school, we have seen many small but powerful examples of pupils showing empathy, compassion and connection. These values feel especially important within our community at this time.

## Theme of the Week – Valentine’s

Linked to this, our Theme of the Week has focused on Valentine’s and the broader idea of kindness, friendship and appreciation. Activities across pathways have explored what it means to care for others, how we build positive relationships and how we can express appreciation in ways that are meaningful and appropriate.

It has been lovely to see pupils creating cards, sharing compliments, working cooperatively and celebrating friendships. These moments of warmth and connection are an important reminder of the strength of our Castle community. This has culminated in our Valentines Disco on the main site this afternoon.

## Staffing Updates

We are pleased to welcome Gill, who has joined our office team on reception. Many of you will already have met her this week, we are delighted to have her as part of Team Castle.

Congratulations to Jazlyn, who will be moving into a Family Support Worker role after the break. With her background in social work and her understanding of our community, she will bring valuable experience and care to this role, and we are very pleased to see her stepping into this next stage of her career.

We have also welcomed our new music teacher, Isobel, who has spent this week getting to know Castle and our pupils. Isobel will begin working across the school delivering music sessions when we return after half term. We are excited to see music continue to grow and flourish within our curriculum.

## Cultivate & Change – Yoga Garden

### Transformation

We are very excited to be beginning our second project with Cultivate & Change. This week, the team brought in volunteers to start preparing our yoga garden for its transformation.

They are working alongside our Sixth Form WRL Horticulture and Maintenance group to create a wellbeing garden that all pupils will

be able to enjoy. It has been wonderful to see our young people working collaboratively, developing practical skills and contributing to a space that will support wellbeing across the whole school.



## Parent Governor Vacancy

Castle School currently has one Parent Governor vacancy on our Governing Body, and we would love to hear from any parents who may be interested in getting involved.

Governors help set the strategic direction of the school, monitor performance and ensure resources are used effectively to support learning. Parent Governors bring a vital parental perspective to discussions and decision-making.

You do not need to be an expert — training and support are provided — although we would particularly welcome interest from parents with experience or a willingness to learn in areas such as HR (Human Resources).

If you are interested and able to commit to the role (term of office: 4 years), please contact the school office for further information or for a nomination form.

Candidates are asked to provide a short-written statement (maximum 200 words) outlining why they would like to be a governor and what skills or experience they can bring.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role before deciding, please contact us and we will arrange for you to speak with a current governor.



## National storytelling Week

Last week we celebrated National Storytelling Week!

We were lucky to welcome some wonderful members of the Rotary Club into school, who spent the week bringing stories to life for our students. From *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson to *Mr Wolf and the Enormous Turnip* by Jan Fearnley, there were plenty of giggles, gasps, and great storytelling moments.

A huge thank you to the Rotary Club for sharing the magic of stories with us!



## Sensory Storytelling

On Wednesday, Pembroke had a brilliant time sharing a sensory story with Dover class.

The story, *What Am I?*, was read by one of the Dover pupils, and Pembroke loved every

moment. Everyone took turns exploring the story's artefacts, and Pembroke thoroughly enjoyed listening

discovering, and learning alongside their Dover friends.



Our staff have been busy telling stories! Check out the storytelling videos released all week and shared with the entire school on the Castle School YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@CastleSchoolCambridge>

## Final Thoughts.....

We return to school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February for the second half of the Spring term. With spring hopefully on the horizon, we look forward to lighter mornings, brighter days and a renewed sense of energy across school.

As we head into the break, I want to thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Our community has shown great strength, kindness and care for one another this half term, and that is something we should all be proud of. It is in both the joyful and the difficult moments that our values truly shine.

I wish you all a restful and peaceful half term.

Charlotte Whysall

**Headteacher**

# Ludlow Class News



## Astro Pi Coding Mission

This week, Ludlow completed a very exciting challenge in Science: They coded an image and sent it to a computer on the International Space Station! There is a type of Raspberry Pi computer on the International Space Station called the Astro Pi, which is being used to carry out some experiments in Space. The astronauts will be able to see the images that Ludlow created, on the Astro Pi sensor. Ludlow designed brilliant images to remind the astronauts of home and impressed us all with their amazing coding skills.



## Kings Class News

Kings class had the pleasure to take part in Lord's Taverners' annual Table Cricket Competition held at Impington Village College, last Friday 6th Feb. We introduced ourselves and met a team from Impington Village College. We then listened carefully to the rules of the game and enjoyed taking turns at bowling, batting, and fielding. At the end of the competition, we received a certificate for our hard work and for

taking part.

Have a lovely weekend,

Kings class



## Trinity Class News

Trinity Class this half term have been trying out some new forest school activities! We have been going on hunts around the forest school environment, using natural resources that we find to make art and Twig teas. We have also been having using our hands to feel and make guesses about different things in nature.



## General Messages

### Extra urgent dental care appointments - request to share information with parents

NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board has requested that the following information is shared with parents.

*Dear parent or carer*

*The local NHS is reminding families of the extra urgent NHS dental care appointments are available across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These appointments help with common urgent problems such as severe dental pain, excessive bleeding of the gums and loose or broken crowns and bridges.*

*If you or your child needs urgent dental help, visit NHS 111 online or call 111. Symptoms will be checked and you'll be given details of the local dental practices that offer urgent dental care. If your family already sees a dentist, please contact them first. If they can't help, NHS 111 will explain what to do next.*

*As patients are not linked or registered to one specific practice, those who need urgent NHS dental care can contact any practice offering NHS services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to see if urgent care appointments are available.*

*Urgent NHS dental care appointments are for anybody of any age who needs urgent dental care. Charges start from £27.40 unless you qualify for free NHS care or help with costs. NHS dental care is free for all children under 18, or those under 19 in eligible full-time education.*

*You can find more information on urgency NHS dental appointments on the NHS website.*

*Thank you, NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board*





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



# 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](mailto:safeguarding@castle.cambs.sch.uk) **Available All Year Round (monitored daily)**

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](mailto:familysupport@castle.cambs.sch.uk)

## **✉ Contact Us**

Have a question? We're here to help:

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

01223 442400

## **Term Dates 2025-26**

<b>Spring Term 2026</b>	
Term Starts	5 January
Half Term	16 - 20 February
Term Ends	26 March
Training Day	27 March*
<b>Summer Term 2026</b>	
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	