



CASTLE NEWS

Friday 20 March 2026 V27 No.25

www.castleschool.info

Our thought of the week is:

'I can share my thoughts'

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

At Castle, we place huge importance on every pupil having a voice, whether that is through words, signs, symbols, communication devices, or behaviour. Being able to share thoughts, feelings and ideas helps our pupils feel understood, valued and connected.

We continue to support all our learners to develop their communication in ways that work best for them, and we celebrate every step of progress.

This week we are celebrating World Poetry Day (21st March).

Poetry is a wonderful way for our pupils to express themselves, explore rhythm and language, and share their thoughts and feelings.

*I have a voice, sometimes it's loud,
Sometimes it makes me giggle out loud!*

*I might use words, or signs, or taps,
Or funny faces... and lots of claps!*

*I might say "yes," I might say "no,"
Or spin in circles just to show!*

*However, I speak, however I say,
I've got lots of thoughts to share each day!*

🌟 Eid Mubarak to all who are celebrating! 🌟

Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Eid. Whether you are spending time with family, friends or your community, we hope the day brings moments of reflection, gratitude and celebration.

For those not observing Eid, we hope the week ahead still brings you positivity and connection.

Red Nose Day – Friday 20st March

Today we are supporting **Red Nose Day**, a fantastic opportunity to come together, have fun and raise money for important causes.

Across school there have been smiles, laughter, jokes and lots of red noses!

Thank you to everyone who has taken part and supported this.

Key Reminders

- **INSET Day:** School will be closed to pupils next **Friday**
- We welcome students back after the Easter break on **Tuesday 14th April**

Charlotte Whysall
Headteacher



EASTER RAFFLE

Tickets on Sale from Next Week - £1 each.

We are raising money towards our amazing new immersive space.

We have lots of lovely prizes including entry tickets, meal vouchers and Easter themed hampers.

Look out for a letter in your child's bag on how to purchase tickets.

Draw date: Monday 23rd March 2026



Darwin Class News



We have had another busy term in Darwin class. We have taken part in a range of activities and to work towards our Maths and English qualifications. Some students are working towards the or History qualification, and others have engaged in ICT and digital skills activities.

We have taken part in work-related learning each week, such as cooking for the staff cafe, bike maintenance, working at the Raptor Foundation or Wimpole Hall. Some of our students have been volunteering at Alex Wood Care Home every week, chatting to the residents and helping with games such as bowling, quizzes and bingo. Some students are practising their road cycling skills and others are keeping fit at the gym every week. We also have some excellent sports leaders in our class, helping out with the primary sports clubs. Our Year 14s had a residential trip away to the Chellington Centre, learning valuable life skills such as cooking and we also regularly plan and cook meals at school.

We look forward to another exciting term next term, with our prom, sports activities and saying goodbye to our Year 14 leavers.



Leeds Class News

This term Leeds have been engaging in learning as we begin to regulate our own emotions using the class prompts. This has been supported by our PSHE this term of 'managing strong emotions', in which we have been discussing how our bodies react to strong emotions.



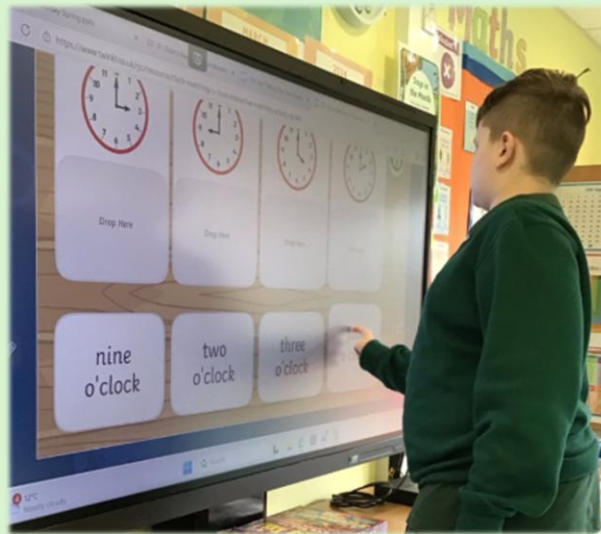
We have been enjoying learning about trees and the seasons. As a group they all joined in to create four large trees showing the different seasons.



In English we have been learning about the tiny seed, enjoying the sensory story telling. We have planted our own seeds and are beginning to write our own instructions on 'how to plant a seed'.



In Maths we have been ordering the days of the week, months of the year and telling the time.

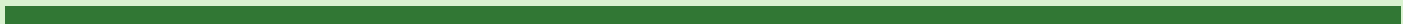


Leeds have been enjoying the weekly swimming session that will continue until the end of term, and we are all becoming much more independent in changing and collecting our own belongings and we are all really looking forward to the next term.



Corfe Class Outing

Today Corfe had an employer encounter at Shrepreth Wildlife Park. We learnt about the different roles of a zookeeper and what it is like working with animals. We were also lucky to see animals from Asia and Africa, two continents we have been studying in geography.



Work Related Learning

We started our first weekly Work-Related Learning for our pre-formal learners in sixth form yesterday. We work at a care farm near Bottisham feeding animals, learning to care for them and tending to vegetable plots. Our pupils had the most amazing time and can't wait to be going back every Thursday morning.

Clare Laidler

Transitions Mentor



Our Cherry Blossom trees in full boom

Sixth form enjoying the beautiful blossom in our wellbeing garden.



General Messages



Free Parent/Carer Support Session



Craft

Morning

Led by Mary Sewell & Kathryn Langran

Thursday 26th March 2026

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!
Refreshments provided.

No sign up required but please email klangran@castle.cambs.sch.uk
to say if you plan to attend.



The Cambridge Festival family weekend with free hands-on science activities 28th & 29th March 2026

The Cambridge Festival has a family weekend on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March, with lots of free hands-on science activities that you can try out. You can simply turn up and try out the free activities (between 11am-4.30pm) or you can book on to the Quiet time which is 11am-12pm on Sunday 29th March.

The full [Festival programme](#) is available. Please refer to pages 5-10.



QUIET TIME AT CAMBRIDGE FESTIVAL'S FAMILY WEEKEND

The Quiet Time at our Family Weekend is for those families who require a quieter environment to comfortably access our Family Weekend. Join Cambridge Festival for a free weekend of talks, workshops and hands-on activities for the whole family!

FREE

11AM-12PM ON SUN 29 MAR

University Centre

Granta Place

Mill Lane

Cambridge

CB2 1RU

BOOKING REQUIRED

Easter Holiday Netball Club

Easter holiday netball

A jam-packed
day of netball
fun for ages 8-15!

Wed 8 April
Swavesey VC

Thu 9 April
Netherhall

Each day is 10-3.30
All abilities welcome.
£30 / £24 for siblings



Book at:
[gkfit.co.uk/
holiday](http://gkfit.co.uk/holiday)

GKfit
www.gkfit.co.uk



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

familysupport@castle.cambs.sch.uk

✉ Contact Us

Have a question? We're here to help:

office@castle.cambs.sch.uk

01223 442400

Term Dates 2025-26

Spring Term 2026	
Term Starts	Monday 5 January
Half Term	Monday 16 – Friday 20 February
Term Ends	Thursday 26 March
Training Day*	Friday 27 March*
Summer Term 2026	
Training Day*	Monday 13 April*
Term Starts	Tuesday 14 April
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May
Half Term	Monday 25 – Friday 29 May
Training Day*	Friday 3 July*
Term Ends	Monday 20 July
*School will be closed to pupils on Training Days	

Term Dates 2026-27

Autumn Term 2026	
Training Day*	Tuesday 1 September*
Term Starts	Wednesday 2 September
Half Term	Monday 26 – Friday 30 October
Training Day*	Monday 2 November*
Term Continues	Tuesday 3 November
Last Day of Term	Friday 18 December
Spring Term 2027	
Term Starts	Monday 4 January
Half Term	Monday 15 – Friday 19 February
Term Continues	Monday 22 February
Term Ends	Thursday 25 March
Summer Term 2027	
Training Days*	Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 April*
Term Starts	Wednesday 14 April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May
Half Term	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June
Term Continues	Monday 7 June
Training Day*	Friday 2 July*
Term Ends	Tuesday 21 July
*School will be closed to pupils on Training Days	