



CASTLE NEWS

Friday 10 July 2026 V21 No.38

www.castleschool.info

Our thought of the week is:

'Transition'

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Message

It has been another very warm week, and pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard to manage the challenging temperatures. We have continued to adapt activities, routines and learning opportunities to help everyone remain as comfortable and safe as possible. Thank you to our families for your continued support and understanding.

There is now just one week and one day of the school year remaining. As we approach the end of term, there will be lots of celebrations, goodbyes and preparation for the changes ahead. For some pupils, transition can feel exciting, while for others it can be difficult or unsettling. Staff will continue to support pupils carefully as they prepare for new classes, staff, routines or the next stage of their journey. Please enjoy the weekend and take care in the hot weather. Try to keep cool, drink plenty of water and stay safe in the sun. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final full week of term.

Thought of the Week: Transition

Our transition sessions into new classes have continued to go really well. Pupils have been getting to know their new classrooms, staff teams, routines and classmates, helping to make September feel more familiar and less uncertain.

A great deal of thought and care goes into class placements for both pupils and staff. Decisions are based on pupils' individual needs, learning styles, friendships, communication, wellbeing and the balance of each class. Our priority is always to place the right child in the right environment, with the right support, so that every pupil has the best possible opportunity to feel secure, succeed and thrive.

Theme of the Week: Preparing for Change

Change can be exciting, but it can also feel difficult or unsettling. This week, we will continue to support pupils to prepare for the changes ahead through familiarisation visits, visual supports, clear routines and reassurance. We are incredibly proud of how well pupils have approached their transitions and of the confidence and resilience they have shown.

Charlotte Whysall
Headteacher

General School News

Castle School Fun Run, Sensory Circuit and Wheelchair Slalom - Monday 20 July 2026

Castle School pupils will take part in a Fun Run, Sensory Circuit and Wheelchair Slalom taking place on Monday 20 July 2026. Students can dress up to add an extra element of fun to the event.

The school will set up a water station; however, students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Additionally, please ensure that students have sunscreen and hats.

Parents are welcome to attend. Kindly check in at the reception upon arrival. Please be aware that there is very limited parking.

Timetable for the day

10:00

Squirrels, Badgers, Deers, Conwy, Dover, Kings

10:45

Dragonflies, Leeds, Foxes, Tintagel, Windsor, Trinity, Carisbrooke

11:30

Corfe, Balmoral, Ludlow, Stirling, Churchill, Darwin.

13:00 - Wheelchair Slalom

Bees and Pembroke

Below is the 'JustGiving' donation page. Thank you for your support. All money raised will go towards school projects.



https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/castlefunrun2026?utm_medium=CA&utm_source=CL

Opening of our Wellbeing Garden

Today we officially opened our wellbeing garden, cultivating change have done an amazing job in transforming one of our courtyards into an incredible sensory garden which will be used by all our pupils for classes, rest and meditation.

We had visitors from the charity, governor, the high sheriff of Cambridge and the Jeremy's family who kindly raised money at his funeral which we bought an amazing barbecue and sound system for the garden, which was put to good use today.

We are extremely grateful to cultivating change and Jim Bibby (landscaper) for creating such a beautiful and calm outside space.



‘easyfundraising’ – Become a Supporter of Castle School



Celebrate the end of term by raising £3 for Castle School - Cambridge, for FREE.

Click below to install the easyfundraising app. Once you have it, become a supporter of Castle School - Cambridge and we get a £3 bonus.

Then simply open the app whenever you are shopping on your phone (from groceries to insurance) - the retailer you shop with will give us a cashback donation, at no extra cost to you.

Thank you!

[Click Here](#)

Squirrels Class News

We have had a fantastic week in Squirrels Class as we get to know one another and warmly welcome three new pupils from the Fields site to the Main site. Everyone has settled in brilliantly, and it has been wonderful to see new friendships beginning to form.

This week, we enjoyed a sensory story session based on The Koala Who Could, exploring the story through a range of exciting sensory experiences.

In Maths, the Squirrels worked hard on sorting big and small objects. They showed great focus and enthusiasm as they compared sizes and grouped objects into the correct categories.

We also had a very successful first swimming session. All the pupils demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm and growing confidence in the pool. Connie was incredibly impressed with their excellent listening, participation, and positive attitudes throughout the session. We are all looking forward to our next swim!

It has been a wonderful start, and we are so proud of how well everyone is settling into life in Squirrels Class.



Tintagel Class News

It has been a busy and enjoyable few days for the pupils in Tintagel class as they began their Transition Week. The pupils have been settling into their new classroom environment, getting to know their new teachers, and becoming familiar with their new routines and timetable.

After exploring their new learning spaces, the pupils quickly settled into their daily routine. They followed their timetable, worked well in English and Maths lessons, and enjoyed Music, Forest School, and Cycling. Throughout the day, they used a variety of communication aids to answer questions, make choices, and express their preferences during lessons and activities.

With the hot weather, activities were adapted to help everyone stay comfortable and cool. The pupils enjoyed water play, including the splash pad, as well as a range of indoor activities. They also visited the Common Room, where they enjoyed playing games together and spending time with their friends.

It has been a lovely first few days in Tintagel class. We are very proud of how well the pupils have adapted to the changes and wish everyone a happy and relaxing summer holiday!



Band night with all proceeds going to the Castle School – Thursday 16 July 2026

A band night is being held at The Portland Arms with all proceeds going to the Castle School. All are welcome as every ticket will make a difference.



Thursday 16th July

@The Portland Arms

129 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, CB4 3BA

Partial Recall

With support from:

Boomchick &

The Bookstore Band



Get ready for a fantastic evening of feel-good music as Partial Recall, a Cambridge-based covers band, bring the energy with a crowd-pleasing mix of rock, blues, and soul classics you know and love. Along with two great local bands.

Every ticket helps make a difference, with all proceeds going to support the local **Castle School**.

Tickets:

Scan the QR code to buy in advance

Adults £11

Concession £5.50

Doors 7:30pm



FREE sports events in the holidays

FREE Active Family Sports sessions will be taking place every Tuesday throughout the summer holidays. We know that the summer holidays can place extra pressure on families, particularly when it comes to keeping children and young people active, engaged and entertained. To help, we're delighted to be offering a wide range of free summer activities taking place across the city.

Supported by Cambridge City Council's Summer Activity Grants Programme, nearly 40 local organisations will be delivering free activities for children, young people and families. These include gaming, music, dance, LEGO, sports, fishing, climbing, laser tag, foraging, capoeira and much more. Full details, including booking links, are available on our website: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/summer-events>



Get active this summer!

Join the Active Lifestyles Team this summer holiday for a series of **FREE Active Family events across Cambridge!** These fun-filled sessions are a fantastic opportunity for families and friends to enjoy sport, dance, games and physical activities together - **completely free and open to all ages and abilities.**

Dates for the diary:

All events run from **10:00am to 2:00pm** on:

- **Tuesday 28th July** - Coldham's Common
- **Tuesday 4th August** - Trumpington Recreation Ground
- **Tuesday 11th August** - St Alban's Recreation Ground
- **Tuesday 18th August** - Coleridge Recreation Ground

What to bring:

- Comfortable clothing and shoes
- Water bottles and snacks
- A picnic blanket for relaxing in the sun

Enjoy a wide range of exciting activities, including:

- **Family play zones:** with skipping ropes, space hoppers, hula hoops and catch games
- **Coach-led sessions:** from local clubs and organisations
- **Football and mini tennis**
- **Orienteering challenges and ball games**
- **Skating and scooting activities**
- **Archery and table tennis**
- **Capoeira and dance workshops**
- **Climbing:** on the bouldering wall
- **And much more!**

More free summer activities

We're proud to support local organisations through our Summer Activity Grant programme. Thanks to this funding, community groups across the city will be delivering even more **free activities for families** throughout the summer holidays.

From sports and fitness sessions to outdoor adventures, creative activities and dance workshops, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Activities will take place at venues across the city and are suitable for all ages and abilities - **BOOKINGS AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM 6TH JULY 2026.**



Find out more about the summer programme and for booking links at: <https://cambridge.gov.uk/summer-events>



Scan me



Summer at the Museums:

Fun family days out in Cambridge and beyond

Your local museums have a jam-packed programme of free and low-cost activities to keep the whole family entertained this summer!

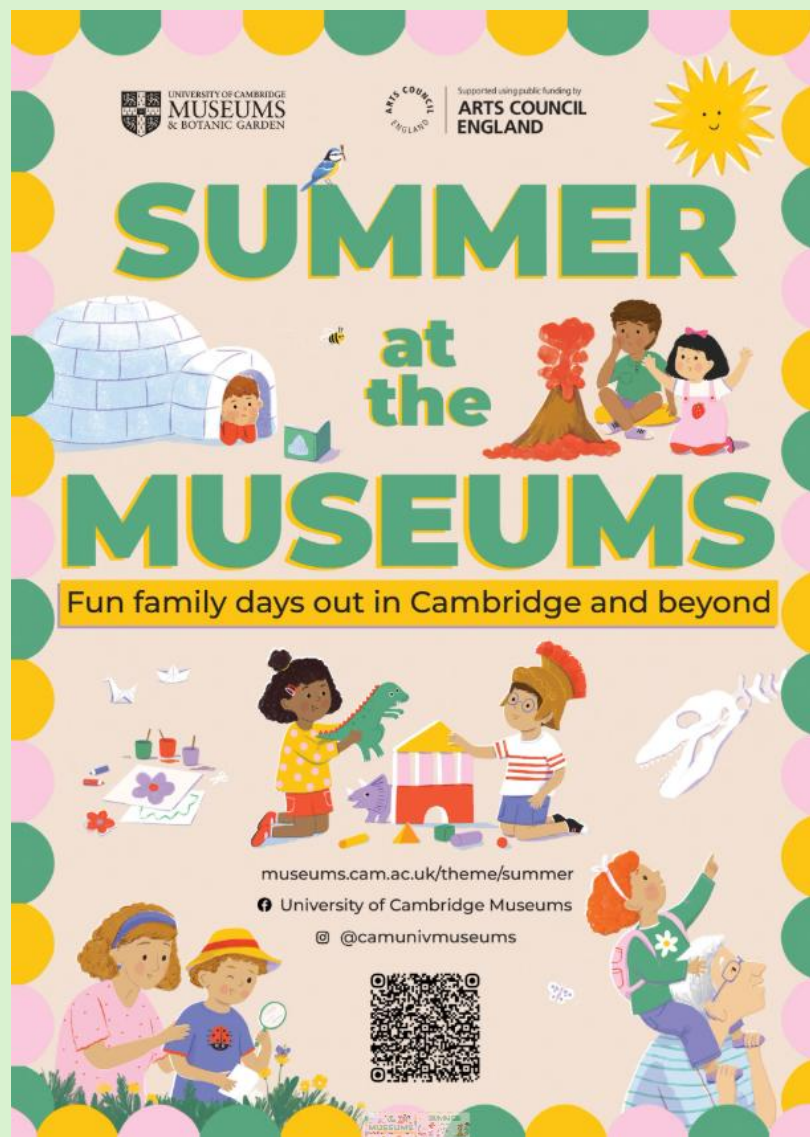
Led by the University of Cambridge Museums, Summer at the Museums brings together holiday events from over 20 venues across the region.

- Take part in craft workshops and make your own masterpieces
- Enjoy hands-on activities and handle museum objects
- Meet scientists and ask them your questions
- Take on a talk or trail
- Get out in nature and discover local wildlife

... and much more!

The full programme will launch on Thursday 9 July 2026 on the University of Cambridge Museums website: www.museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/summer

To hear when the programme launches and receive weekly event round-ups, you can [sign up to the Summer newsletter](#).



Supporting Neurodivergent Families

The free community and accessible spaces finder for neurodivergent families.

If you are raising a child with autism, ADHD, dyspraxia, or sensory processing needs, the upcoming school holidays don't have to feel isolating. SameAcres is a completely free, secure app designed by parents, for parents, to help you build your local support network over the summer. Connect with nearby families for zero stress playdates and discover a community map of sensory safe places in our area. It is entirely free, secure, and privacy protected. Learn more at sameacres.com"



SameAcres

find your flock



FREE
for all SEN
families



Find days out that actually work for SEN children.

SameAcres features venues that accommodate SEN needs and are recommended by other parents with neurodivergent children.

Community, Support & Playdates

Stop explaining and start connecting. Meet local families raising neurodivergent kids to share support, build lasting friendships, and plan stress-free playdates.



You don't have to fly this alone.



www.sameacres.com

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

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	