Castle News
Together We Learn

Friday 6th November 2026 V22 No.9

www.castleschool.info

Our thought of the week is:

'Friendship, Kindness and Belonging'

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Update

Welcome back to everyone following the half-term break! I hope all our families enjoyed some time together. It has been lovely to welcome our pupils and staff back to school this week, and we have also been delighted to welcome some new pupils and their families into our Castle School learning community.

We are looking forward to all the learning, experiences and opportunities that the coming weeks will bring.

Our Curriculum – Communication at the Heart of Learning

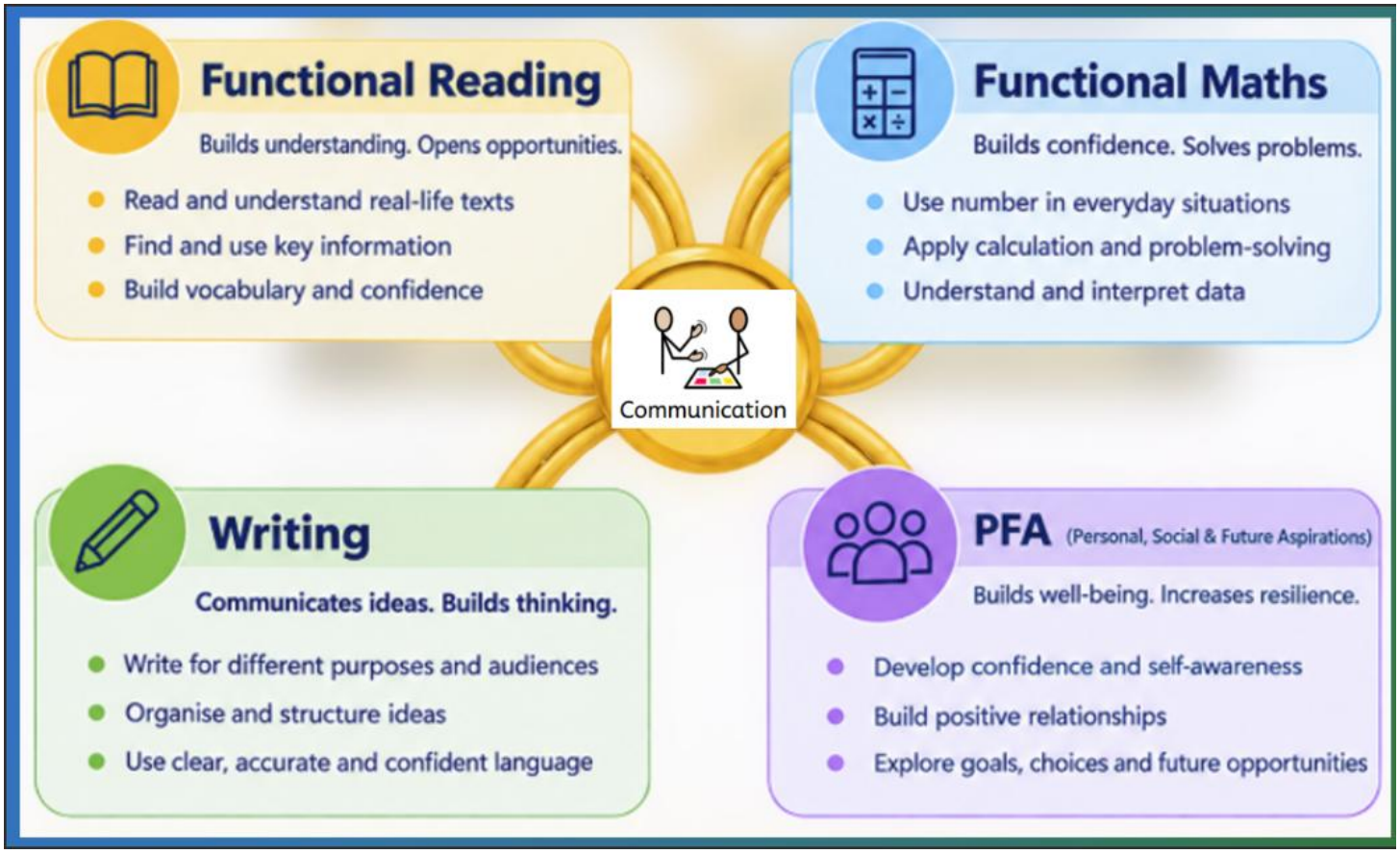
This week, I wanted to share a little more about what underpins our curriculum at Castle School and why communication is so important in everything we do.

Communication is at the heart of every lesson and is the foundation for learning, connection and independence. For our learners, communication takes many different forms, and we celebrate and value every way in which our pupils express themselves, whether through speech, signing, symbols, communication devices, gestures or other forms of interaction.

Our aim is to ensure that every learner has a voice, can make choices, express their thoughts and feelings, develop relationships and increasingly influence the world around them.

Alongside communication, functional reading, maths, writing and Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) are woven throughout our curriculum. These are not simply skills taught in isolation, but opportunities for pupils to apply their learning in meaningful, everyday situations, from making choices and managing routines to developing independence and participating in their communities.

Ultimately, everything we do has a shared purpose: to equip our learners with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to navigate, participate in and enjoy life beyond Castle School.



Thought of the Week – Healthy Lifestyles

Theme of the Week – I Can Make Healthy Choices

This week's theme encourages our pupils to think about the choices they can make to support their health and wellbeing.

At Castle, we recognise that healthy lifestyles look different for every learner. Whether it's exploring new foods, enjoying physical activity, recognising when we need rest, developing personal care routines or understanding our feelings, every small step towards making healthy choices is worth celebrating.

We would love families to reinforce this theme at home by encouraging pupils to make choices about their own wellbeing, in whatever way is meaningful and accessible to them.

Wishing all our families a lovely weekend.

Charlotte
Headteacher

School News

KS4 Digital Media Work

The KS4 digital media work relating learning group visited Raspberry Pi studios on Hills Road this week. This is the start of an ongoing project where we'll record a half telly 'castle news' video in their amazing studio. We would like to thank Sonja at Raspberry Pi for offering us this fantastic opportunity.







Robins Class News

This half term, Robins class have been learning about our theme ‘All about Me’.

We have been exploring different body parts using matching activities, puzzles and creating artwork. Robins class have also learnt about emotions and how we might feel in certain situations, becoming familiar with a range of different facial expressions. Alongside this we also exploring the 5 senses in our sensory story, giving pupils the opportunity to see, hear, touch, smell and taste a range of different things.






Trinity Class News

This term Trinity have been exploring the world of work based on our stories 'The first day' and 'The Big story'. We have explored different jobs such as builders, gardeners, musicians through music, creativity, maths, attention building and our sensory story. We have also been practicing important work which we do every day in our homes to keep ourselves and our surroundings cared for. We have been washing up, putting the washing on the line, cleaning the tables, making the bed and sweeping the floor. Hopefully we can begin to apply some of this in our own homes!!

Each week we go out on the community outing where we can put some of the foundational skills we have learnt around keeping ourselves safe in the community. Our most recent outing took us to a pumpkin farm. We picked different pumpkins, sat on a tractor and explored the local area. Some of us go out on work experience once a week where we can also apply some of the skills we have learnt. We have been caring for the chickens and goats, finding and preparing food and giving it to the animals.



Castle School Christmas Bazaar



Donations Welcome



It's that time of year again when we start preparing for our annual Christmas Bazaar in December.

To support our preparations, we would be extremely grateful of donations of any of the following:

- **Raffle Prizes**
- **Tombola Prizes**
- **Cuddly Toys**
- **Books**
- **Toys, Games and Puzzles**
- **New or Preloved Coats in good condition**
- **Sweets for prizes**
- **Unused and unopened toiletries**
- **Plants**
- **Christmas jumpers or partywear**
- **Christmas decorations (no electricals)**
- **Art & Craft supplies**

To donate – drop item/s off at reception in a bag marked 'For the Christmas Bazaar'.

There will be a box in reception for donations to be placed in.

School Events

Free Parent/Carer Support Session

Growing Up: Puberty, Bodies and Sexual Development

Thursday 12th November

10 – 12 am

Led by Charlotte Whysall, Head Teacher

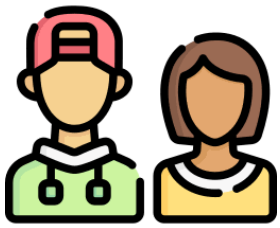
An informal session about puberty, private behaviours, masturbation, relationships, boundaries and supporting young people with SEND for parents and carers.

Main Site

All Welcome!

Please sign up to register your free place on the session:

Growing Up: Puberty, Bodies & Sexual Development - Thursday 12th November, 10am - 12pm, – Fill out form



🏅 Launching the 2026 Castle Try-athlon! 🏅
starting Monday 9th November 2026

🗓️ **Starting Monday, 9th November**
We're excited to launch our **2026 Castle Try-athlon (Triathlon)!**
Over a **three-week period**, our students — along with some of our staff — will take part in **three key activities**. Each class team will track their progress in **attendance or distance covered** as they work towards their goals.

🚴 **The Main Activities**
- **Cycling**
- **Walking / Running / Pushing**
- **Swimming**

Some students will even complete a **full triathlon**, including **road cycling, road running**, and **swimming at Chesterton Sports Centre Pool**!
Whilst Pembroke class will be undertaking a special Cycle ride on Courtney Way.

🌟 **"Try" Something New**
As the name suggests, we're not restrictive — we're actively encouraging everyone to "**Try**" three different activities.
These could include:
- Bouncing
- Shooting baskets
- Wheelchair dance
- Or any other fun, active challenge!

🤝 **Get Involved!**
We'd love our **parents, carers, and extended families** to join in too.
Why not '**Try**' your own three activities during this time?
Share your journey on **Evidence for Learning** and consider being **sponsored** for your efforts!

💙 **Fundraising for Castle School Hydrotherapy Pool**
This year's Try-athlon is raising funds to refurbish the lighting in our Hydrotherapy pool.

👉 **Visit our JustGiving page**
https://www.justgiving.com/page/castle-accounts-5?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

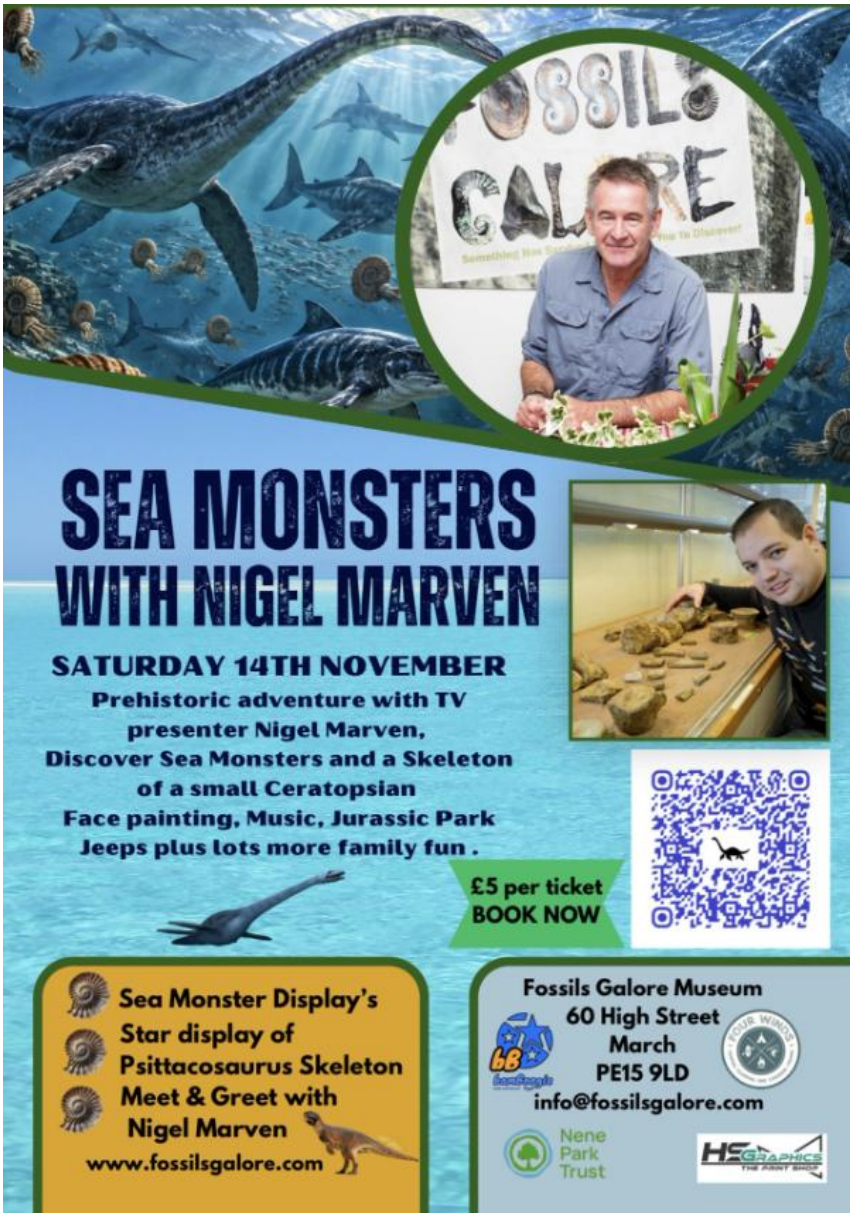
💪 **Let's Do This Together!**
Let's make this a **fun, inclusive, and inspiring challenge** for everyone.
Please support and sponsor our 2026 Castle Try-athlon!

General News

Sea Monsters with Nigel Marven – Saturday 14 November 2026

Fossils Galore Museum CIC in March, Cambridgeshire, are hosting Sea Monsters with Nigel Marven, a special family event on Saturday 14 November 2026, 10am–5pm, at Fossils Galore Museum, 60 High Street, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 9LD.

Tickets: £5 per person, including museum entry. Book tickets: https://shop.fossilsgalore.com/nigel-marven-event-early-bird/



Visitors can meet TV wildlife presenter and museum patron Nigel Marven, explore prehistoric sea monsters and see a Psittacosaurus skeleton. There will also be face painting, music and Jurassic Park Jeeps.

Fossils Galore Museum is a community organisation dedicated to accessible palaeontology and Earth science education, including neurodivergent-friendly experiences.

Christmas Shopping Evening
Wednesday 18 November 2026



Free Festival of Inclusive Tennis
Saturday 28 November 2026

Join us on **Saturday 28 November, 10am–12pm, at Cambridge University Sports Centre** for a morning of tennis where everyone can get involved.

The festival is **open to ALL**, whatever your age or ability. Whether you've never picked up a racket or already love a rally, our specialist coaches will help you join in and enjoy yourself. All activities take place indoors, and disabled parking is available.

Friends and family are welcome to come and play too!

Families can find out more and register here:
https://www.power2inspire.org.uk/tennis/

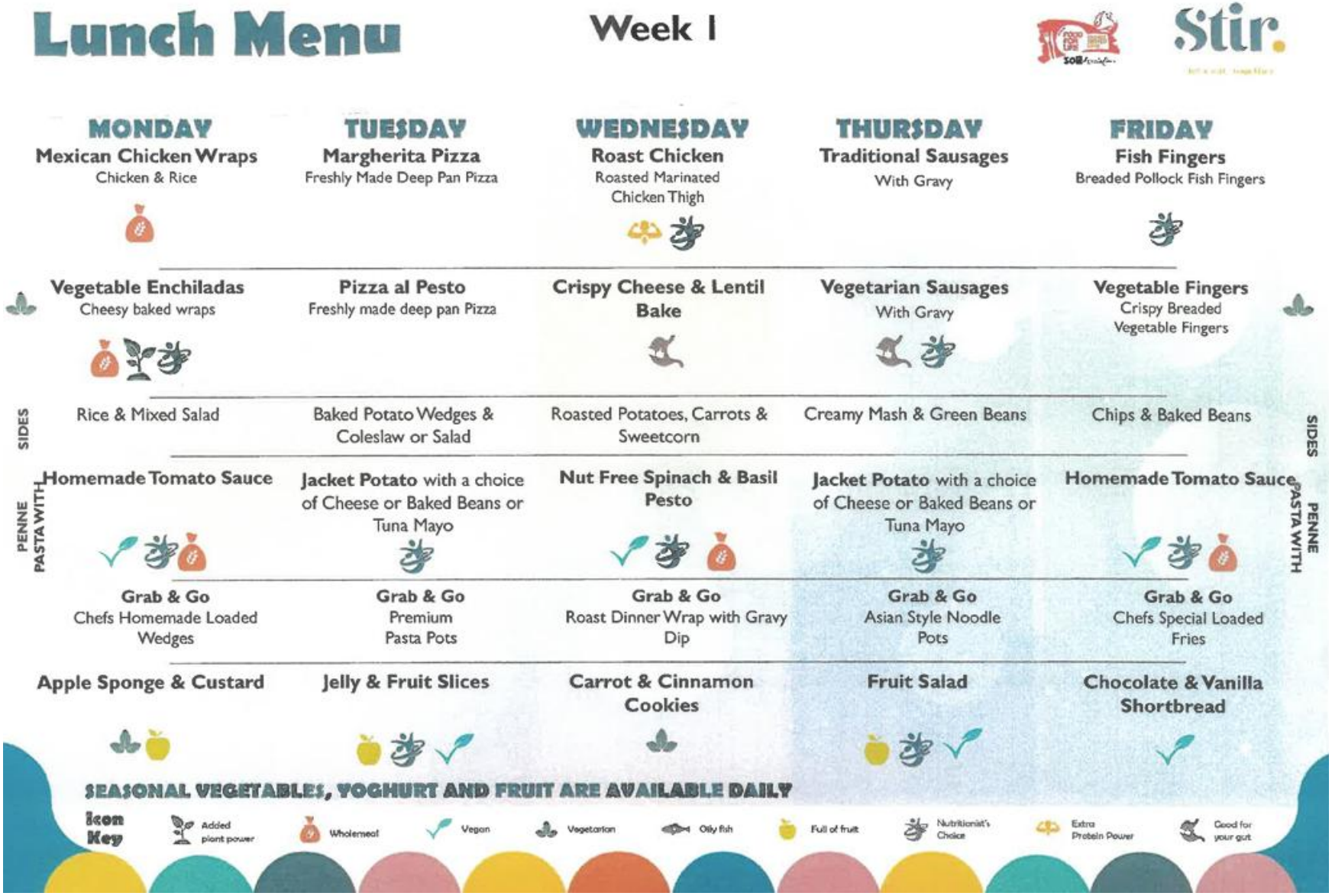
Power2Inspire
Inclusion through sport



Phoenix Milton's Christmas Fair
Sunday 29 November 2026



Lunch Menu (Week 1)
Monday 9 – Friday 13 November 2026



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 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	Wednesday 21 July
*School will be closed to pupils on Training Days	