Dear Parents

Happy New Year!

It has been a very settled start to the new term. Children have enjoyed getting back into routines of learning and seeing their friends.

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Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Miss Jones who joins us a Teaching Assistant.

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Site News

We are pleased to advise parents that we will be having our perimeter fencing replaced. Work will begin on Monday 16th January. Work will begin on the fencing bordering the fields at the back of the school and continue all the way round to the front of the school. The fencing will improve site security further. There will be no changes to entrance or exit routes to school.

The entire project will take approximately 5 weeks and will culminate with new car park lift barriers being installed in the car park.

We are grateful for the support from Castleman Academy Trust in securing the funding for the project from the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) which is a budget, created by the government, to help academic buildings remain in a good condition.

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Year 4 - Ukulele - Wider Opportunities

As part of our wider opportunities in school, we are pleased to advise that the Dorset Music Hub musicianship Programme will be providing lessons for Year 4 children to learn the ukulele this term.

Lessons will take place on a Friday morning and the children will be taught by James Arthur, Session Leader from Dorset Music Hub. There is no cost for these lessons and instruments are provided by Dorset Music Hub.

We hope your child will enjoy the experience of learning the ukulele at school. If you have any questions regarding this, please email the school, for the attention of Mrs Charters, Music Coordinator.
Switch Off Fortnight 2022

Switch Off Fortnight 2022 took place on 14-27 November 2022 and was an opportunity for our school and young people to make small changes in our lives that save energy and help to protect the planet.

As a school we made small changes to support Switch Off Fortnight by ensuring lights and computers were switched off when not required.

As a result of this, we have calculated how much we saved during this period and are pleased to advise that we made an average saving of £127.75 per week; this would save almost £5000 a year across 38 school weeks!

Bedtime Story Event

Thank you to everyone who supported our Bedtime Story event last term. It was very well attended and enjoyed by the children.

We are pleased to advise that a fantastic sum of £283 was raised at this event. Thank you to all involved in making the event a success.

Breakfast Club Consultation Reminder

At a recent Governors’ meeting we discussed the increased demand there has been for Breakfast Club places since September. We want to support parents who need Breakfast Club but this must be within safe child to adult ratios.

To help Governors make decisions about permanently increasing capacity, further work needs to take place in the coming months to assess likely future demand on each day of the week. A survey is now available to all parents in the Parent Mail app. Please fill this out this so we can build a complete picture of the needs of our parents.

Car Park Reminder

Our school car park remains restricted to authorised visitors and staff only.

Please be aware that there is only limited accessible spaces for Blue Badge Holders. If you are a permit holder, a parking space is not guaranteed and cannot be reserved.

Parents are advised to leave plenty of time to park and walk from one of the local car parks at Tesco or the Leisure Centre. Please be respectful to our neighbours in Mountbatten Drive and Brabourne Avenue and avoid parking here if possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.
Accessibility Plan Consultation – A Reminder

All schools must have an accessibility plan which clearly sets out how we intend to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities and services you provide
- Improve the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

We are in the process of reviewing and revising our Accessibility Plan. If parents would like to contribute ideas for consideration, please contact Mrs Cload, SENCo by the end of Monday.

Back to School Advice Issued amid High Levels of Flu, COVID-19 and Scarlet Fever

As pupils and students return to school following the Christmas break, UKHSA is reminding people that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels.

Please see the link below for useful guidance and reminders.


Reminders.....

Uniform

In line with our school uniform policy, parents are asked to ensure their child wears the required uniform to school at all times, please.

For more information on our uniform requirements and where you can purchase uniform, please see the ‘School Uniform’ section under the ‘Parents’ tab on our website.

Our yellow polo tops can be purchased from Sainsburys, Ferndown.

As the weather is now much colder, please ensure your child has a named coat in school.

Your child should wear either black or dark coloured shoes to school. Trainers are not permitted.

PE Uniform

Our PE uniform consists of a plain white t-shirt and black or navy shorts. Children are allowed to wear a plain navy, black or grey tracksuit on cold days and they may wear trainers to school.

Please do not send your child to school in any affiliated team kit or branded clothing which is not suitable for school. Children not in PE uniform will have to take part in their school uniform.
Hairstyles/Jewellery/Nail Varnish

Parents are reminded that fashion hairstyles, including tramlines and razored cuts, are not acceptable. Please ensure that any hair below collar length is tied up with a dark coloured band/hair fastener. Please remove all nail varnish.

Small stud earrings are acceptable. No other jewellery should be worn to school. If your child cannot remove their earrings, parents will need to provide micropore tape to cover the earrings during PE lessons and out of hours activities. If this is not done, the child will not be permitted to take part.

Water and Snacks

Water is only permitted for children to drink in lessons, from their water bottles. Squash is allowed as a lunchtime drink. Fresh fruit, vegetables or a plain biscuit are the only permitted items for snack. Grapes to be cut in half please.

Birthday Sweets

We are proud to be a Healthy Eating school, so we are sorry but cannot assist those parents who request we hand out birthday sweets to children in their child's class.

Supervision at the beginning and end of the day

Parents are responsible for ensuring children arrive at school safely. Our children are very young and we ask parents to accompany their children to school, supervising them on site until children enter their base, where staff are available and on duty. If your child attends Breakfast Club, parents should accompany children to the staff entrance door and wait with them until Breakfast Club opens.

Our next Newsletter is due to be published on Friday 20th January.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Watts
Acting Headteacher