



Words Matter. Why?

Dear Parents/Carers

This week, Reception class have been busy learning their phonics and starting on their exciting journey of learning to read. Year 1 and Year 2 wowed us with their enthusiasm during our Harvest Practice. Year 3 and Year 4 have continued their journey into prehistoric times with their learning about the Stone Age period whilst Year 5 and 6 have written some great setting descriptions based on their class book 'Esperanza Rising'. It is wonderful to see all the hard work and enjoyment that the children demonstrate every day in their learning.

Sporting Achievements

Our Y5/6 girls' football team again played with huge heart leaving everything on the pitch against Parton Manor. Despite a loss, they played with grit and determination and we are very proud of them.

Our boys' 'A' team took part in the Small Schools' Tournament on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Bowers reported that they played superbly and won every match in the group stages making it through to the semi-final. Unfortunately, we lost the semi-final match to Hempsted and, therefore, did not progress to the final. However, the team played some wonderful football and never gave up.

Bedtime Stories Event for Y2 and Y3 pupils and parents: Tuesday 6th October 6-7 pm

If your child is in Year 2 or Year 3, you are warmly invited to come along with your child to our annual Bedtime Stories event next Tuesday. Please see attached poster for further details.

Harvest Festival – Thursday 8th October

Next week sees our Harvest Festival celebration. Please send in your donations on Thursday morning as the food bank will be collecting them that day. Year 1 and 2 pupils are performing at our Harvest Festival and Y1 and Y2 parents are very welcome to join us. Please arrive for a 9am start. See attached poster.

Friends of Castle Hill AGM

Thank you to all parents who attended the FRIENDS AGM either in-person or online. Congratulations to Claire Nelson who is our new chair and to her team. Thank you to our outgoing chair James Mackintosh for the time he gave in this role last year. Please see the attached poster from our new FRIENDS for more information and a 'who's who'.

Table-tops

Thank you to all those parents who have donated to our new table tops project so far. We currently have £250 – enough for 10 new tables. Please keep the donations coming in so that we can continue our transformation of the classrooms to improve our learning environments for the children. A special thank you to Chester, Y1, and his mum for raising money through a bake sale after school today! Please come along and support them.

School lunches – new system

Due to new legislation around allergens, and other factors such as time taken to order individual pupil lunches in the mornings, we will be implementing a new system around ordering school lunches.

Please see below a message from our admin team:

'After the October half term, the school office will no longer be taking lunch orders in school. The new lunch menu will be available from Monday 2 November 2026. Parents and carers will be able to sit with their children at home, choose their meals together and place their lunch order up until 10:00pm on the evening before.

*Once the 10:00pm deadline has passed, the order list will go **directly to the kitchen for preparation**, and the school office will not be able to add or make changes to orders.*

ParentPay – Please Check Your Account

Please make sure that your **ParentPay login is working** and that your account has sufficient credit before placing an order.

- **KS1 pupils:** You do not need to worry about payment. You will **not be charged for lunches**.
- **Children entitled to Free School Meals:** You will also **not be charged for eligible school lunches**.
- For other pupils, the new system will require payment **at the time the order is placed**. You will not be able to complete an order unless there is sufficient credit in your ParentPay account.

If you are experiencing any problems with your **Parent Pay account or login**, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

How to Place an Order

Mrs. Sharma will be sending you a **step-by-step guide** shortly explaining how to use the new system and place your child's lunch order.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us introduce this new system.

Parents' Evenings – 21st and 22nd October

Our first Parents' Evenings of the academic year take place on Wednesday 21st October (3.30 - 6.30pm) and Thursday 22nd October (4-7pm) both in-person. This is a chance to properly meet your child's teacher and to see how your child is settling in to their new class.

Parents' Evening slots will go live on Thursday 8th October 6:00 PM, so please check your account is working beforehand and contact the school office if you experience any issues.

Headlice

Please check your child's hair over the weekend as we have had cases of headlice in school this week. See the NHS app for advice.

IMPORTANT: Medical admissions forms

Please ensure that this form is completed and sent back to school by the end of next week.

Polite Reminders

The bell for registration rings at 8.45 am and the gates are shut promptly for safeguarding purposes. Children are not allowed on the climbing frame at the end of the day. Thank you.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Ettrick - Headteacher

Key dates for next week:

Tuesday 6th October – Bedtime Stories for Y2 and Y3 parents and pupils (see attached poster)

Thursday 8th October – Harvest Festival – all parents please send in donations; Y1 and Y2 parents invited to join us for a 9am start

Key upcoming dates:

OCTOBER 2026

Wednesday 21st October – Parents' Evening – 3.30-6.30 pm (please make an appointment)

Thursday 22nd October – Parents' Evening – 4-7pm (please make an appointment only)

Friday 23rd October – **INSET DAY** - no pupils in school (staff only)

Half-term – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Saturday 31st October – Secondary school application deadline

NOVEMBER 2026

Monday 2nd November – Return to school

Tuesday 3rd November – Nasal flu vaccinations

Tuesday 10th November – Open Morning for Reception 2027 parents (information on website)

Friday 13th November – individual school photographs

Monday 23rd November – Y6 Houses of Parliament trip

Wednesday 25th November – Open afternoon for Reception 2027 parents: 1.30 – 2.30 pm

Friday 27th November – Y3 trip to SkillZONE