



NEWSLETTER

26/27 #2 Friday 18 September 2026



Castle Life

It has been great to welcome lots of families in to school this week. On Wednesday evening, we held our first 'Meet the Teacher' event for families who have children in Y1-Y6. We hope the parents who were able to come found it useful. Teachers definitely appreciated the opportunity to meet lots of parents in an informal way. We have now sent out copies of the PowerPoints if you were unable to attend. Yesterday, our YR families came to our Welcome Coffee Morning – again this event was well supported and it was lovely to spend time with both new and long-standing Castle families.

Mrs Sessions

Attendance

As always, we are striving for high attendance for all of our pupils – our expectation is that all of our children are in school on time, all of the time.

Please see below guidance regarding attendance expectations:

What you need to do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.30AM **each day** of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in and we will call you if needed
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then please talk to Mrs Gibson (Pastoral Leader) so we can help.

What we will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.
- Write to you, to let you know if we are concerned about your child's attendance and inform you that we will be monitoring it.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we continue to be concerned.

HAL (Home Assisted learning)

As a reminder or if you are new to the school, attached to this newsletter you will find a letter explaining our approach to HAL for each year group. Today, your child (Y1-6) has brought



home an exercise book (HAL book). These can be used to practice any spellings/maths learning. We ask that these be returned weekly if your child is in Y5/6 and termly if your child is in Y1-4 – we will send a reminder to parents at the end of each term! For our YR families we will explain all of this in detail at our YR Curriculum evening on Wednesday 23 September – don't panic!

Unaccompanied school Travel

KS2 children need to have road sense and be responsible enough to walk, scoot or ride to and from school safely (avoid risks) and sensibly (good behaviour). The age of this varies and ultimately is a parental decision. If you have agreed with your child that they can walk to and from school independently and you have not done so already, please make us aware by signing the form attached. Please note that travelling independently does not mean that a child is permitted to have a mobile phone at school. We remain a phone-free school.

Castle Life

We have two student teachers from Bath Spa University who are joining two of our classes – Miss Henrich in Jones Class and Miss Smith in Foster class. We are really excited to welcome them to Castle and know our children will give them a very warm welcome when they start next week.

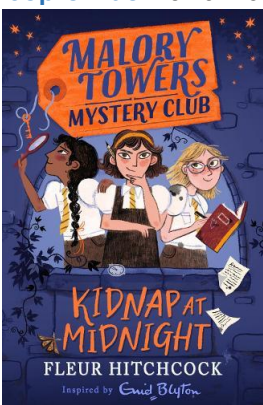
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Planned Teacher Changes

Date	Class	Cover
Wed 23rd Sept	Hughes	Mrs Springer
Tues 22nd Sept	Carle	Mrs Sale
Fri 25th Sept	Rosen	Mrs Sale

Y3, Y4 & Y5 Fleur Hitchcock Author Visit Offer

Brilliant Bath-based author Fleur Hitchcock will be visiting Castle Primary School **on 24th September** to talk about the first book in her



Malory Towers Mystery Club series, inspired by the Enid Blyton classics. If you would like to pre-order a copy of the book from Storysmith bookshop ahead of the event, you can do so using the link below, and Fleur will be able to sign this on the day of the event.

<https://storysmithbooks.com/Fleur-at-Castle>

Online Safety

Avon and Somerset Police are offering FREE online "Keeping your child safe online from grooming and exploitation" sessions on 29 September- 7pm-8.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-keeping-your-child-safe-online-from-grooming-and-exploitation-t...>

6 October-1pm-14:30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keeping-your-child-safe-online-from-grooming-and-exploitation-ticket...>

Please see information attached.

Reminders

Next Wednesday at 6.30pm we host our Curriculum for YR families. This will be held in the Key Stage 1 hall. Parents are welcome to park in the school car park for this event. Y6 have an educational trip to We the Curious planned on Thursday 24th September – the coach is planned to leave at 9am so please make sure your child is on time.

Achievements Outside School

Ella Parrott (Dahl) and her dog Gus took part in a dog show competition over the weekend. They came 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Youngest handler, Goldie oldie (dog over 7 years old) and Best trick. Well done Ella and Gus!



Tahlia (Gravett) won the Keynsham in Bloom Infant colouring competition that the children were given before the school holidays and was presented with her prize and certificate this week.

Well done Tahlia!



Star Pupils & Frosty Friday

Our **STAR learners** are:

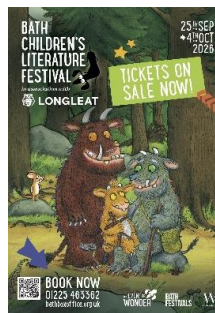
Lucas	(Ahlberg)	Evie	(Donaldson)
Oscar	(Gravett)	Nell	(Jones)
Noah P	(Dahl)	Paris	(Hughes)
Amelia T	(Cowell)	Nico	(Farook)
Sophia	(Rauf)	Phoebe	(Wilson)
Lexi	(Blackman)	Rose	(Foster)

For always displaying Castle Behaviour our **Frosty Friday** winners:

Lara	(Ahlberg)	Edie	(Donaldson)
Isabelle	(Gravett)	Zach	(Jones)
Callie	(Dahl)	Elsie	(Hughes)
Oscar	(Cowell)	Alma	(Farook)
Alma	(Rauf)	Poppy	(Wilson)
Alfie	(Blackman)	Harrison	(Foster)

Bath Children's Literature Festival

Free family events at Bath Children's Literature Festival



Come and join celebrations for the start of Bath Children's Literature Festival with a FREE family-friendly Party at the Museum, on Friday 25 September, 5pm to 8pm at the Holburne Museum in the city.

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Early Years Donations

In Reception we are looking to enhance our provision for the children and are calling on our wonderful school community to help. In particular we are looking for donations of off-cuts of wood for our woodwork area. These need to be soft wood, such as pine, and cut to small lengths. We are also on the look out for a small wooden car garage (like the one pictured) if you have one going dusty!

If you are having a clear out before Christmas and have any other resources that you think we might be able to use then please speak to a member of YR.



Road Safety Week

To celebrate this year's Road Safety Week, Volker Highways are excited to launch their Road Safety Slogan Competition.

The winning slogan will be displayed on their vans and used to promote safer roads across the communities we serve. Children are to write a short, memorable and fun slogan that promotes safe behaviour when walking, cycling, or scooting near roads. The winning slogan will be displayed on VolkerHighways vans.

For more information and to submit your entries, [please click here](#).

Scan the QR code to submit entries!

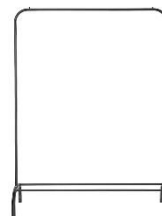


Winning Teams

Congratulations to **Chepstow** for gaining the most points!

1st	Chepstow
2nd	Caldicot
3rd	Farleigh
4th	Berkeley

Uniform Recycling



We are hoping to create a uniform recycling area in the near future and are looking for some rails similar to the one pictured. If you have a spare one you would be happy to donate,

please speak to the office.

Puddleducks

It has been lovely welcoming everyone back after the summer, we've had a busy couple of weeks settling back into the routine and getting to know our new children and families. We are very proud of how well all the children have settled.

Please could we remind parents, if you haven't already, to



bring in some wellies and waterproofs so we

are able to access the garden in all weathers.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Stinchcombe family, who over the weekend gave up their time to help us tidy up the garden which had become a bit of a project after the summer. The children have been enjoying using the big garden again and we are all very grateful for all their help.

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