



# Federation Newsletter

September 2025

[www.crigglestonecastle.co.uk/](http://www.crigglestonecastle.co.uk/)

**Crigglestone** - (01924) 251151

[criggadmin@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:criggadmin@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk)

**The Castle** - (01924) 664787

[castleadmin@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:castleadmin@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

## ☀ Welcome to Our Nursery School Family! ☀

Hello to all our new families, and a warm welcome back to those returning!

I'm **Kirsty Quinn**, proud Executive Headteacher of Crigglestone and The Castle Nursery Schools. It's a real joy to begin another exciting year with such wonderful children and families.

At both nursery schools, we're passionate about creating a **safe, nurturing, and inspiring environment** where every child can explore, grow, and thrive. Whether this is your first experience with us or you're returning with a younger sibling, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Please don't hesitate to stop and say hello, ask questions, or share any thoughts - we love working in partnership with our families.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead, filled with **laughter, learning, and lots of happy memories!** 🌈

## 📱 Stay Connected with Class Dojo



**ClassDojo**

the Portfolio section)

We use **Class Dojo** as our main platform for communication between school and families. It's where you'll find:

- **Newsletters & key messages**
- **Weekly Learning Letters** from Preschool & Nursery (Class Story)
- **Observations of your child's learning** (via

☑ **Already connected last year?** No action needed.

✉ **New to Class Dojo?** Check your inbox (and junk folder) for an activation email. Need help? Contact the school office.

📧 Staff aim to share at least **2 observations per half term**. These can be viewed in the app or browser. You're welcome to comment or add your own home experiences too!



## Key Information for Parents



Mrs Quinn

*Executive Headteacher*

I split my time across both schools throughout the week. Please do come and say hello!

You can also contact me via:

- Class Dojo Message
- Email: [kquinn@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:kquinn@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk)
- The school telephone numbers: (01924) 251151 / (01924) 664787



## Follow Us

Stay connected with updates, events, and school fun



**Federation of Crigglestone  
and The Castle Nursery  
Schools, Wakefield**



**criggcastlenurseryschools**

Please remember: Early years staff prioritise **interacting with children over paperwork**, so updates may be occasional — but meaningful.

If you need support using Class Dojo, speak to your child's teacher — we're happy to help!

### School Fund Money



We kindly ask for a **£7 School Fund donation** for this half term (cash or bank transfer). These contributions help us provide exciting extras that enhance your child's learning, such as:

- **Baking & food tasting** linked to celebrations
- **Rhythm Time sessions**
- **Living Eggs** (chick hatching project)
- **Classroom resources** (supporting the Curiosity Approach)
- **Daily snacks** for the children
- ...and more!

If you wish to donate more, you're very welcome. We completely understand that times are tough, and there is **no pressure** on any family unable to contribute. Thank you for your continued support ♥

Bank Transfer Details	
<i>Crigglestone Nursery School</i>	<i>The Castle Nursery School</i>
Account name: Crigglestone Nursery School Fund	Account name: The Castle Nursery School
Account Number: 65386866	Account Number: 65767278
Sort Code: 08-92-99 (Co-operative Bank)	Sort Code: 08-92-99 (Co-operative Bank)

Thank you for your generous donations

### Nursery School Attendance Matters

#### Attendance Matters



At Crigglestone and The Castle Nursery Schools, we know that regular attendance and good punctuality are vital for giving children the best start in their education. When children attend school every day, they are more settled, build strong relationships, and benefit fully from the exciting learning and development opportunities we provide. Early childhood is a crucial time for building good habits, and consistent attendance helps children develop a strong sense of routine, belonging, and confidence.

Working in partnership with parents and carers, we aim to support families in forming positive attendance patterns that prepare

children for future success. Please support your child's learning by ensuring they attend nursery every day and arrive and are collected on time. Together, we can give your child the best possible start.

## Reporting absences from school



It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell. Follow this advice on when to keep your child home:

<http://nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

If your child is not going to attend school, please make sure you contact school to let us know. If we have no contact from you to say why your child is not in school, we will have to do a home visit, to check that you and your child are safe and well.

You can contact school in the following ways:

- **Class Dojo** message to Admin
- **Telephone:** (01924) 251151 - Crigglestone / (01924) 664787 - The Castle
- **Email:** [criggadmin@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:criggadmin@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk) / [castleadmin@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:castleadmin@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk)

## The Castle Family Hub



Located at **255 Barnsley Road, Wakefield, WF1 5NU**

The Castle Family Hub is a warm, welcoming space offering early help, support services, and activities for local families.

### What's On Offer?

- **Parenting Support:** Programs like *Triple P* and "Who's in Charge?" to build confidence and manage behaviour.
- **Well-being & Emotional Support:** Sessions for both children and parents on managing stress, anxiety, and anger (BEAM).
- **Domestic Abuse Awareness:** *Freedom* program helps recognize signs of abuse and its impact on children.
- **SEND Parent Groups:** Friendly term-time meetups for parents/carers of children with special educational needs or disabilities.
- **Coffee Mornings:** Meet staff and learn about local services in an informal setting.
- **Online Courses** also available for convenience and flexibility.

### Why Visit the Hub?

- Get **early help** with parenting, behaviour, mental health, housing, debt, or family conflict.
- Access **joined-up support** through coordinated services tailored to your needs.
- **Connect** with other parents and families facing similar challenges.

### Contact Us

**Phone:** 01924 303 376

**Email:** [WFTCastleFamilyHub@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:WFTCastleFamilyHub@wakefield.gov.uk)

<https://www.wakefieldfamilies-together.co.uk/family-hubs/>

[Click Here to View our What's On Guide](#)



### Lending Libraries – Borrow, Read, Enjoy!



We hope you're enjoying our **lending libraries** outside both schools! Feel free to **borrow and return books** to share with your child.

♥ Love a book? Keep it! Just pop a **pre-loved book** back in to help us keep the shelves full.

📦 Got spare books at home? We'd love any **donations** to support our reading community.

Let's help every child develop a **love of reading** and enjoy special story time together!

### Wakefield School Admissions – Reception Place for September 2026



You can apply online for a Reception school place for September 2025, between 1 November 2024 and 15 January 2026. If you apply after this date, it can severely reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school.

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/school-admissions/apply-for-a-full-time-place-in-reception/>

### 50 Things to do before you're five



We're thrilled to introduce *50 Things to Do Before You're 5 in Wakefield*! This wonderful free resource is packed with exciting and educational activities that you can enjoy with your little ones, all designed to spark their curiosity and support their development. From outdoor adventures to hands-on learning experiences, each activity offers a chance to explore, play, and learn together. All activities are completely free, making it easy for families to engage in meaningful experiences without any cost. We encourage you to visit [50 Things to Do Before You're 5](#), download the free app and start checking off your list of fun, local adventures. It's a perfect way to make lasting memories while supporting your child's growth and learning!

Thank you for your support.

**Mrs Kirsty Quinn**

*Executive Headteacher*



## Healthy Packed Lunch Tips for Parents

At Crigglestone and The Castle Nursery Schools, we believe in working with parents to encourage healthy eating habits in children. Here's a handy guide to help you pack balanced, nutritious lunches and snacks for your child.

### 1. What to Pack:

#### Essential Ingredients for a Healthy Lunchbox

- **Starchy Foods:** Provide energy for the day with whole grains and carbs.
  - Examples: Bread, wraps, pasta, crackers, pitta bread, rice cakes, bagels.
- **Fruits & Vegetables:** At least one portion of fresh fruit or veg.
  - Examples: Apples, bananas, cucumber, carrots, peppers, berries.
- **Protein:** Important for growth and muscle development.
  - Examples: Chicken, fish, eggs, chickpeas, lentils.
- **Dairy:** Essential for bone health.
  - Examples: Cheese, yogurt, fromage frais.

### 2. Snacks: What's OK and What's Not

#### Allowed Treat:

- 1 packet of low-calorie crisps per day (e.g., Wotsits, Quavers, or Skips).

#### Please Avoid:

- Chocolate, sweets, cereal bars, salty snacks, or fizzy drinks.

#### Healthy Snack Ideas:

- Malt loaf, fruit teacakes, plain popcorn, or sugar-free jelly.

### 3. Drinks: Keep It Simple

- Water will be provided during lunchtime, so no need to include a drinks bottle.
- Keep drinks to water - it's the healthiest option!

### 4. Safety First: Eliminate Choking Hazards

- **Cut fruits and vegetables** like grapes, strawberries, and cherry tomatoes **into quarters** to avoid choking risks.
- **Remove pips and stones** from fruits before packing.
- **Slice hard fruits and vegetables** (e.g., apples, carrots, melon) into bite-sized pieces.

### 5. Pack with Care

- **Cool packs are a must:** We don't have refrigeration, so use an ice pack to keep the lunch fresh.
- **Label the lunchbox** with your child's full name to prevent mix-ups.
- **Prepare food in easy-to-eat sizes:** Chop fruit and veggies so your child can easily enjoy them.

### 6. For Special Diets and Allergies

- If your child has dietary restrictions or allergies, it's your responsibility to ensure their lunch is suitable for their needs.
- **No food swapping:** Encourage your child to enjoy what's packed for them, and let us know if adjustments are needed.

## 7. We're Here to Help

- Our staff monitors what children bring in their lunchboxes to encourage healthy choices.
- If your child's lunch consistently doesn't meet the guidelines, we may contact you to discuss healthier alternatives.

## 8. Need More Ideas?

- For more healthy lunchbox inspiration, visit the [Change4Life Recipes](https://www.change4life.co.uk/recipes) website.





## Groups for families in the local area

Please share this information with friends and family. You do not have to have a child attending our schools, to be able to join these groups.

Crigglestone and The Castle Nursery School are working in partnership with The Castle Family Hub, to bring you some new and free groups. Please come and join us!

### **Based at Crigglestone Nursery School**

High Street, Crigglestone, WF4 3EB  
(01924) 251151

### **Based at The Castle Nursery School**

Barnsley Road, Wakefield WF1 5NU  
(01924) 664787

### **Stay and Play for Under 5's - Fridays (9.00-10.30am)**

**[Re-starts from 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025]**



The poster for the 'Free - Under 5s Group' features a yellow background with a central illustration of three children playing with colorful blocks. To the left is a circular logo for 'The Castle Family Hub' and to the right is a circular logo for 'Wakefield Families Together'. The text on the poster reads: 'Free - Under 5s Group', 'Please come and join us for 'stay and play' sessions.', 'At: Crigglestone Nursery School High Street, WF4 3EB (01924) 251151', 'Fridays (9.00 - 10.30am)', 'We look forward to meeting you.', and 'No booking necessary - open access - your child does not have to attend our school to join this group.'

### **SEND Parents and Child Group - Mondays (9.00-10.30am)**



The poster for the 'SEND Parent and Child Group' features a yellow background with a central illustration of various toys including a teddy bear, blocks, a doll, and a car. To the left is a circular logo for 'The Castle Family Hub' and to the right is a circular logo for 'Wakefield Families Together'. The text on the poster reads: 'SEND Parent and Child Group', 'Please come and join us for 'stay and play' with your child', 'At: The Castle Nursery School, Annexe', 'Mondays (9.00 - 10.30am)', 'We look forward to meeting you.', 'The sessions are aimed at children under 5 years.', and 'No booking necessary - open access - your child does not have to attend our school to join this group.'

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

In a  world where you  
can be anything, be **warm**   
**Kind**-hearted and generous.  
Be amazing, → **present** and  
**daring**. Be **fully** alive.  
**Be-YOU-tiful!**

**DONUT** let  
anyone dull your  
  
**SPARKLE.**

## Safeguarding - Keeping Children Safe



**Wakefield**  
**Safeguarding Children**  
**Partnership**

There is more information for parents on the Wakefield Safeguarding Children Partnership website: <https://www.wakefieldscp.org.uk/>

### Our Federation DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads)

If you have any concerns about a child or family, please speak to one of our DSLs. They can be contacted via the main school office, (01924 251151 - Crigglestone or 01924 664787 - The Castle) or by email, to [headteacher@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@crigglestonecastle.wakefield.sch.uk) (Please mark FAO: DSL/Safeguarding Concern)

### Social Care Direct

If you have any concerns about the welfare or safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult then please contact Social Care Direct. Any information you give will be treated with confidentiality.

Social Care Direct are open 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Telephone 0845 8 503 503





## Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Back to school: **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025**

School closes for Half Term: **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

School re-opens: **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025**

School closes for Christmas Holidays: **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

School re-opens for Spring Term: **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

School closes for Spring Half Term: **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

School re-opens: **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

School closes for Easter Holidays: **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

School re-opens: **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

School closes for Spring Bank Holidays: **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

School re-opens: **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

School closes for Summer Holidays: **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

## Inset Days

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

