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Saturday, 3rd January 2026

Dear Families,

Firstly, let me start by saying Happy New Year. Here's hoping that 2026 is everything that you all want it to be and more. I hope you have enjoyed the Christmas break and are looking forward to that all important routine starting again on Monday morning.

As you know, I like to make sure that we're all on the same page as much as possible. This letter, albeit on a Saturday, is intended to share some news and updates ahead of our return to school on Monday 5th January.

Leadership Team Updates

As you'll remember, Miss Dalby has now started her maternity leave. There are no baby related updates to share yet but as soon as I hear and have Miss Dalby's blessing to share, I'll keep you all informed. I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating Mrs. Morris as she takes on the role of Acting Deputy Headteacher for the duration of Miss Dalby's maternity leave. I'm also pleased to share with you that we have additional leadership capacity in the form of Mrs. Houghton. Mrs. Houghton will be a familiar face to our children as she's worked with us for one day per week for over 2 years now but she'll be with us more moving forward. She brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm with her and I look forward to you all having the chance to get to know her better over the coming term.

Forest School Weekly Timetable

Forest School is a big part of life at Castleway. It's something that our children benefit greatly from and, as such, receives huge investment from us. The timetable for Spring Term as it stands at the moment is below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3E	F1 & 4J	1P & 2W	5S* & 4C	F2

*5S have fortnightly sessions. The planned sessions for 5S in Spring Term are: 08/01/26, 22/01/26, 05/02/26, 26/02/26, 12/03/26 & 26/03/26.

Swimming Arrangements

For the last number of years, we have been incredibly fortunate to have a pop up swimming pool on site. This has been hugely popular with our children, staff and parents, and it has been a real highlight of the school year.

Unfortunately, we have been informed by the Local Authority that we are no longer permitted to use pop up pools on school sites. This is a Local Authority directive and not a school based decision. If it were up to us, you know exactly what we would choose.

As a result, we will be returning to using the Local Authority swimming pools, with a timetable in place across the spring and summer terms. Mrs. Morris and I have been working closely with Edsential, who manage the Local Authority pools, and we have been assured that both the quality of provision and the length of time pupils spend in the pool will match or exceed what we have previously offered with the pop up pool.

While we are disappointed to lose something that has worked so well, we are confident that our swimming provision will remain strong and that children will continue to benefit from high quality swimming lessons.

The timetable for swimming lessons at Leasowe Leisure Centre is below:

12/01/26	19/01/26	01/06/26	08/06/26	22/06/26	29/06/26	13/07/26
Year 1	Year 2	Year 4	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	F2 & Year 3

Headteacher: Mr. S. Mycroft-Armer

Castleway Primary School & Castleway Nursery School, Castleway North, Moreton, Wirral, CH46 1RN

Proud to be part of The Castleway Family of Schools

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Glow in the Dark Dodgeball

We've listened to our children and I'm delighted that we're welcoming the Glow in the Dark Dodgeball team back to Castleway this coming Friday. What better way to end our first full week back at The Castle!

Year of Reading 2026

2026 is officially the 'Year of Reading' and we are diving in with real purpose and plenty of trademark Castleway enthusiasm. Reading regularly is one of the strongest predictors of academic success, it builds vocabulary, improves writing and develops empathy by helping children see the world through different eyes. Just ten minutes of reading a day can make a measurable difference to progress, confidence and wellbeing, and we want every child to feel that reading is something they do because they love it, not because they have to. This year we will be celebrating stories, authors, libraries and the sheer joy of getting lost in a good book, while continuing to champion reading at home and at school as a vital life skill. Of course, we have lots planned to celebrate the Year of Reading with our children and families... why wouldn't we! More information about our plans will follow soon.

End of Key Stage 2 Assessments – SATS

As we approach the Year 6 SATs, it's important to recognise that these assessments do matter and that full attendance across all classes during SATs week is absolutely essential to ensure everything runs smoothly and fairly for the children. That said, SATs are just one snapshot in time. They can measure certain academic skills, but they don't capture the full picture of who our children are. Our pupils are so much more than a set of test results: they are creative, kind, resilient, curious, and talented in countless ways that can't be marked on a test paper. While we encourage every child to give their best and to be in school every day that week, we also remain proud of them for everything they bring to our school community, far beyond what any test can measure.

The order of the papers are decided by the Department for Education. Timings of the delivery of the papers each day are decided by school. Here's the timetable for the week:

- **Monday 11th May 2026:** English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (Papers 1 & 2)
- **Tuesday 12th May 2026:** English Reading
- **Wednesday 13th May 2026:** Mathematics Paper 1 (Arithmetic) & Paper 2 (Reasoning)
- **Thursday 14th May 2026:** Mathematics Paper 3 (Reasoning)

As it's now firmly embedded as a tradition, Year 6 will be treated to their McDonald's lunch on Friday 15th May. With our largest Year 6 class in a long time, this year's order will be the biggest yet!

Coming Up at The Castle

Please see the list of confirmed dates below to make sure you're up to date on what we've got planned so far. The events yellow are taking place during the first week back.

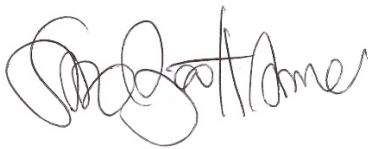
- 05/01/26 – Back to School at the usual times
- 07/01/26 - Coffee Evening (Adults Only) - 7:00pm in The Turret
- 09/01/26 - Glow in the Dark Dodgeball (F2 - Y6)
- 21/01/26 - Come Dine with Us - 11:30am
- 26/01/26 - Lunar New Year Workshops - F1, F2 & Y1
- 02/02/26 - Challenging Hate Workshops - Y2 - Y6
- 10/02/25 - Come Dine with Us - 11:30am
- **13/02/26 - School Closes for Half Term at the Usual Times**
- 25/02/26 - Coffee Evening (Adults Only) - 7:00pm in The Turret
- 08/03/26 - 11/03/26 - Y4/5 Residential
- 13/03/26 - Come Dine with Us - 11:30am
- 24/03/26 - Come Dine with Us - 11:30am - Extra Date following feedback from families!



- **27/03/26 - School Closes for Easter Break at the Usual Times**
- 15/04/26 - Coffee Evening (Adults Only) - 7:00pm in The Turret
- 04/05/26 - May Day Bank Holiday - School Closed
- 11/05/26 - Y6 SATs Day 1 - Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling
- 12/05/26 - Y6 SATs Day 2 - Reading
- 13/05/26 - Y6 SATs Day 3 - Maths
- 14/05/26 - Y6 SATs Day 4 - Maths
- 15/05/26 - Y6 McDonald's Lunch Treat - Orders will be taken on the day
- 14/05/26 - 15/05/26 - Y2 Residential
- **22/05/26 - School Closes for Whitsuntide Half Term Break at the Usual Times**
- 03/06/26 - Coffee Evening (Adults Only) - 7:00pm in The Turret
- 07/07/26 - 08/07/26 - Y6 Residential at Gulliver's World
- **17/07/26 - Last Day of Term - School Closes for Summer at the Usual Times**
- 20/07/26 - INSET 5 - School Closed to Children

Enjoy what is left of the break and I'm looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday morning.

Kind regards,



Mr. S. Mycroft-Armer
Headteacher

