



# Castlethorpe First School NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 1 2026



## Welcome back!

It is hard to believe last half term we managed to fit so much in; enjoying World Book Day, our trip to London, Take One Picture and Kingston Gym. With the sun starting to appear, we will be staying 'local' in our school and village surroundings this half term. I wonder if the Artemis II moon mission has captured your imagination as much as it has mine? It certainly reminds us that human exploration is full of bold dreams and exciting possibilities! Seeing astronauts prepare to journey around the Moon helps make space feel real and within reach, not just something from books or films. In school we want this mission to inspire our children to look up with curiosity, ask big questions, and believe that with determination, teamwork and learning, they too could one day help shape humanity's future among the stars.....

## Our value this half term: Service

This term will be teaching the children about helping and supporting others by taking on roles and responsibility, acts of service. Be it through the School Council, play leaders at break time or even through watching what you do helping with FOCS (Friends of Castlethorpe School), there are many acts of service they can learn from in school, locally and in the wider world.

## This terms topic: South America

While we won't be leaving Castlethorpe, we will be expanding our horizons and looking abroad with a geographical focus this half term. We will be looking at the Natural World, paying a



particular interest to South America. We'll be comparing hot and cold climates, looking at the continent's physical geography, exploring texts; Paddington and the Marmalade Maze and the Great Kapok Tree. In Science children will be taught how to observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants and what they need to stay healthy. For more information, you can find it on the VSF website.



FOCS BOX

Thank you to everyone who supported our Easter trail – it was a fun day full of yummy cakes, eggs and **daffodils!** We usually plan it as a social event, but this year it actually also raised £240, which is absolutely amazing – thank you 😊 We hope too you've had a peek at the new furniture and fittings in the library classroom by now. It's fantastic to see the money we raise go to projects like this. This term we are starting to plan for the **Duck Race (14<sup>th</sup> June)** and our **Summer Fete (12<sup>th</sup> July)**. We are also looking to find new committee members, and will arrange an open meeting about all of this - please keep your eyes peeled on Parentmail/Facebook for further details. Contact us at: [friendsofcastlethorpeschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcastlethorpeschool@gmail.com)



## Health and Fitness Week 2026

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May sees the start of an exciting week which will focus on health, fitness and well-being. The children will learn in a fun and active way what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and just as important, how to maintain it,



including the benefits of physical activity, rest, healthy eating and dental health. We are looking forward to bringing people from different sports backgrounds to run sessions and talk to the children. We hope you will join us too for a morning drop off fitness session!

## Attendance



School attendance from the beginning of the school year to the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026 was 97.0%. Thank you for all you do to ensure your children are in school and on time. As we move into the Summer Term, thank you in advance for not booking term time holiday so there is no lost learning or social time for your child or their classmates.

## Building Update!

The school continues with it's wonderful refurbishment and I'm delighted to share that the children's toilets in the Year 1 and 2 area have been modernised and painted. The children love using them! In addition, we hope you have enjoyed seeing the new playground surface and artificial grass area in the EYFS area. We will continue to improve the playground areas over the next year.

## Websites

We are excited to announce that our new school websites will be launching soon, and we look forward to sharing them with parents and our wider community.

The updated sites have been designed to be clearer and easier to navigate, helping parents and carers to quickly find important information, news, and resources. We're confident these new websites will strengthen communication and provide a welcoming online space that reflects our Federation vision and values.

We will let you know the exact launch date in due cause.....watch this space!

## Dates for your diary

- Summer Term begins – **Mon 13<sup>th</sup> April**
- Family Read – **Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April**
- Whole School/Class photos – **Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> April**
- Bank Holiday Monday – **Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May**
- Elfin Strings Celebration Concert – **Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> May**
- Health and Fitness Week – **Mon 18<sup>th</sup> May**
- Haversham Sports Festival (Yr2) – **Tues 19<sup>th</sup> May**
- Family Read – **Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May**
- Half term begins – **3.30pm Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May**
- School returns – **Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June**
- Phonics screening test Year 1 – **Mon 8<sup>th</sup> June**

## A note from Mrs Wallace



With the sun beginning to shine, our school community very much looks forward to spending more time outside as we continue to appreciate all that our wonderful village schools have to offer.

Our value for this term is **service**. Such an important value, there is so much to be gained by giving of our time and talents to others. I see acts of service every day, and I know just how greatly our children benefit from the time, care and commitment that others give in our schools.

Service is at the heart of our small communities – within our villages, community groups, churches and schools. These communities are sustained because people choose to give their time and energy to support them. While life undoubtedly feels busier than ever, it feels more important than ever that we help children to understand, both at school and with your support at home, why giving our energy, time and love to help and support others matters so much. Thank you for all you do in service to support our school.