



# Castlethorpe First School NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2 2026



Commented [CS1]:



## Welcome back!

We hope everyone enjoyed their half-term break and some days when it didn't rain! I think we are all ready for some lighter and brighter days as we move towards Spring! We have a short but busy half term ahead with lots of exciting events to grow our learning – starting with the KS1 trip to London by train and World Book Day. We will also be taking part in the National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' and celebrating the festival of Easter.

We look forward to welcoming you in to school for our midyear parent consultation meetings, a great opportunity for us to talk together about your child's learning and the progress made since November. Please do complete the feedback forms sent before the meetings so we can be as prepared as possible and make the most of the time with you.

## World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The day continues to emphasise **reading for pleasure and enjoyment**. In school we want to encourage reading by giving children the time, choice and space to enjoy reading the books they genuinely enjoy!



Our chosen text is **The Bridges by Tom Percival** which celebrates the power of both books and reading and champions the importance of our libraries. It's always a happy day where we enjoy a day off the usual timetable with time set a side to read and celebrate books as a reading community.

## Our value this half term: Justice

Justice is such an important value. In our school community this means ensuring that every child and adult is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. It is about creating an environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and heard, and where the rules and expectations apply equally to all. Justice also means standing up for what is right, addressing mistakes with honesty and compassion, and working together to resolve problems in ways that help our community grow stronger.



## Take One Picture

We will be taking part in this year's Take One Picture. This is run by the National Gallery and is a programme designed for primary schools, which aims to inspire a lifelong love of art and learning.

This year's focus painting is: **'A Muse (Calliope?)' by Cosimo Tura**, a picture chosen by children and teachers across the country.



We are particularly interested in the painting's striking figure, ornate design and rich colours. We have some exciting lessons planned exploring the painting and look forward to sharing our artistic work with you later in the term!

## CAPITAL CITIES

Ensuring the children learn to understand the world around them is really important and so this half term we'll be using our interest in London and focusing on the geography of the UK. We'll be looking at Capital Cities, naming and locating the different nations within the UK and helping the children identify landmarks in London. We will also be writing adventure stories and factual sentences from our experiences on our London trip and through texts about London. In science we will be identifying, observing and describing growth in a variety of plants and trees. As always you will find this half-term planning on the website.

[Village Schools Federation Website](#)



## Dates for your diary

- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Family Read
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Consultation Meetings EYFS, Year 1 and 2
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March – London Trip
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Family Read and Reveal of the new Library Furniture
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March Break up for Easter
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April Summer Term begins



FOCS BOX

**Save the date: The FOCS Easter trail will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 1pm -3:30pm.** £3 per person. Come to the Village Hall to collect your map. Clues will be around Castlethorpe, with a reward back at the hall, along with refreshments, colouring, and raffle. We will ask for cake donations closer to the time: please keep your eyes peeled!

**FOCS needs you** : We are looking to fill the roles of chairperson, secretary and treasurer. It is not a big commitment, but FOCS cannot continue without them.

Bus transport and library classroom furniture are just some of the things we are funding right now, and we would love to be able to continue this. Please get in touch if you can help: [friendsofcastlethorpeschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcastlethorpeschool@gmail.com)

## A note from Mrs Wallace



With lambs beginning to appear in the fields and golden daffodils peeking through the grass, this time of year reminds us of nature's ability to reset and renew. We are all hoping that some welcome spring sunshine will follow soon.

As we pass the halfway point of the school year, staff are incredibly proud of how much the children have grown in confidence, resilience, and enthusiasm since September. This half term, as we re-emerge from winter, we will be celebrating the natural world through our much-loved forest school sessions as well as marvelling at the creativity of humans as we visit the City of London.

Our value for this half term is **justice**, and we will be exploring this through the Easter story as well as real examples from school life to help children understand why fairness and treating others with respect matter. If you are able, please do continue these conversations at home.

## Attendance

Good school attendance is vital. Castlethorpe whole school attendance is at 96.7% a figure we have maintained from last term and above the national average. On top of all the educational benefits to being in school they have so much fun, you don't want them to miss out!

## The Education Hub

This week you may have heard of that new School's White Paper has been published, this sets out the governments long term plans for education. There is some useful information on the education hub site at: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/>

## Building Update!

We are delighted (so is Mrs Flach!) that the school office has been fully refurbished. Next is the library furniture and then the KS1 toilets during the Easter holidays!