



Castlethorpe First School NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 1- 2026



Welcome back!

Happy New Year to all our children and families, we are pleased to welcome you back after the fun and festivities of Christmas. We are thrilled that the children have returned ready and willing to learn.

A big thank you to our wonderful **FOCs team** for providing us with the wonderful Christmas hampers, providing extra food for our Christmas party and lots of other things that made it extra special for the children.

We have lots of interesting events planned for the children this half term including visits and visitors from the water safety team and the fire brigade. We run an open-door policy, so if you need talk to your child's teacher, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Kingston Gymnastics

During this half-term the children will have two afternoon visits to Kingston Gym, on the 19th January and the 2nd February. This is such an important opportunity for the children to experience a fully equipped gym to develop movements and skills under



trained gymnastic coaches. Starting this week, the children will be breaking down and learning the skills to transfer on to the equipment later this month. It's also a super opportunity for the children to learn side by side with friends from across the Village School Federation.

Children's Mental Health Week



This year's theme is **"This Is My Place"**. We'll be helping children think about where they feel safe, happy, and like they belong—at school and at home.

You can join in by asking simple questions like: "Where do you feel happiest?" "What makes you feel part of our family?" Little conversations make a big difference. Together, we can help every child feel they have a special place.

Values

This half term, we'll be learning all about the value of **perseverance** –we will teach the children that when you persevere you stick at something, even if things get hard, such an important value to enable children to reach their full potential.

Caterpillar Craft Club

We are trialling a Craft Club on Friday afterschool. The children will start the session with a drink and a biscuit and then there will be a craft project to undertake each week. You will have the option of picking up 4.30pm after craft club, or your child can stay longer for some child led play and a light tea. For more information please contact Lianne in the office.



2026 – National Year of Reading

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign designed to inspire us all to make reading a regular part of our lives. Everyone know reading expands worlds, sharpens our minds and fuels creativity, but do we make enough time for reading? The tag line for the campaign is GO ALL IN. So, whatever interests we have as individuals, as families or with friends we are encouraged to read about it and make reading fit how we live not the other way round. Follow the link to read more!



[Go All In - National Year of Reading](#)

Great Fires!



In KS1 we will be learning about the Great Fire of London as well as the fires in some of our own local towns and villages! From how the fire started to how it was eventually stopped, we are excited to fire up imaginations using three different texts which explore this event.

In Science we will all explore the properties of materials and how they change, whilst in DT how to join materials together to create structures. We will all also be learning about the roles and responsibilities that come with belonging to a group and in RE exploring the big question “How do people know how to behave?”.



FOCS BOX

Thank you for all your support last term - through the hampers and wreath night, you raised an impressive £960, and we are looking forward to putting this towards lots of activities and equipment for the children in 2026.

After Xmas is a quieter time for FOCS, but this year will be the last for this committee, as we will be off to big school in September - eek! Anna will still be available, but FOCS will need new volunteers to continue running. It is not a big commitment, but it is fun and rewarding, and a nice way to get to know school better. If you think you would like to get involved, please get in touch via facebook, email, or in person, and we would be happy to tell you more.

Dates for your diary

- Monday 19th January – Kingston Gym
- Friday 30th January – Family Read
- Monday 2nd February – Kingston Gym
- w/c 9th February – Children’s Mental Health Week
- Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day
- Thursday 12th February – Topic Theme Day
- Friday 13th February – Break up for half-term
- Monday 23rd February - Back to school

A note from Mrs Wallace



Happy New Year!

There’s something lovely about January in school. The children have settled in, the Christmas excitement has passed, and now we can all take a breath and look ahead to what we want to achieve together—without the nerves that September brings.

For many of us, the New Year is about fresh starts and resolutions. This term, our value is **perseverance**, which feels very timely! We’ll be talking with the children about what it means to keep going, even when things feel tricky. It’s such an important skill—one that builds resilience and helps them face life’s challenges with confidence.

We’d love your help in chatting about perseverance at home. Maybe share a time when you didn’t give up, or talk about how you’re sticking to your own New Year’s goals.

Here’s to a happy, successful year ahead for all of us.