



# Castlethorpe First School NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 2 - 2025



## Welcome back!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to a new half term and look forward to enjoying the last weeks of what has been a gloriously colourful and abundant autumn before thoughts of winter fun set in!

We have a very busy and exciting half term ahead with lots of exciting activities planned so please have a look at the dates for your diary.

As the weather is changing, please make sure that children have their coats in school every day.

Please can you check that all gloves, hats etc. are named, so that children can become independent at taking care of their own belongings.

It was lovely to see so many at our spooky disco last term – we hope you all enjoyed it and the Chu Chu Wa dance!

This term sees the return of our amazing xmas hamper raffle, along with the school xmas party and the village wreath night - please keep an eye on our Facebook page for plans and requests, but a rough guide as follows:

**28<sup>th</sup> Nov: Non-uniform day** in exchange for hamper gifts.

**w/c 1<sup>st</sup> Dec: Hamper/Gift wrapping in school** – details tbc: we would be very grateful for some elf-helpers to join.

**18<sup>th</sup> Dec: Hamper raffle draw** - Tickets will be available via bookbags.

**30<sup>th</sup> Nov/30<sup>th</sup> Dec: 100 club draws** - If you still want to buy a number, contact Ruth at [ruthsmith1704@gmail.com](mailto:ruthsmith1704@gmail.com).

FOCS BOX



## Parents Meetings

Parents meetings will be held in school next week with Mrs Ingrouille, and Mrs Miles the following week. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss how your child has settled in to the new school year. Please do complete the feedback forms and return to school so meetings can be as useful as possible.

## Anti-Bullying Week

This is all about empowering children and young people to use their **Power for Good** to safely speak up and raise awareness

if they see bullying, face to face or online. We will be teaching this through exploring how our behaviour affects others, how we all have similarities and differences and how we can be respectful and polite.



## Values

Our value for this half term is 'Trust'. We will also be remembering our values of respect and service as we take part in our school act of remembrance at the Castlethorpe war memorial next week.



You may have heard of **Harry's Rainbow**, a local charity that helps children and families after someone dies. Their mission is to give bereaved children a brighter tomorrow.

We know that even our youngest children can feel sad when someone they love is gone. That's why it is important to talk gently about grief and feelings, so children know it's okay to be sad, ask questions, and remember special people and pets. This year Mrs Underwood will be using Grief Awareness Week 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November to share a special story and talk to the children about grief and grief education to help them feel more resilient and understanding of what loss is.

## Curriculum

Our focus will be '**Celebrating the World**' by exploring different countries and cultures through stories and poems. We will be finding out more about where our food comes from and how food is used in different celebrations. Of course, we will be getting outside regularly and looking at seasonal changes. Children in key stage 1 will be learning about the geography of the UK and the world' continents and oceans. Children in foundation will also be looking at stories about woodland animals. In RE we will be learning about the Jewish celebration of Sukkot, comparing it to harvest and looking at how we celebrate Christmas. So, lots of learning ahead!



## Christmas is coming

Christmas is such an exciting time in school and this year is no exception. On **Saturday 6th December at 1pm** we will gather at the *Christmas Tree Festival* in Olney to sing together and admire all the trees, including the VSF Christmas tree adorned by decorations hand- made by every child.

Our School Christmas performance of 'It's a Baby!' will be held on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and 2.30pm in the church** and on the final week of term we will be visiting The Stables Theatre to watch the performance of *Stick Man* with all our friends across the VSF.

## Dates for your diary

- The Power of Good Anti-Bullying Week – 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November
- Open Afternoon for prospective families – 1.30pm Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Nov
- BBC Children in Need – Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Family Read-Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Hamper Donations and Non-school Uniform Day -Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Christmas Tree Festival Olney – Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Dec @1pm
- Christmas Performances – Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.30am and 2.30pm
- Stables Theatre Trip *Stick Man* – Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Dec
- Christmas Party – Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Dec
- End of Term – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec @1pm

## A note from Mrs Wallace



As the clocks change and winter draws in, it is easy to forget in the cold and dark how exciting this part of the year can be for children. With Halloween followed closely by the whizz bangs of Bonfire night, quickly being replaced by the sparkle of Christmas decorations and the long wait of the advent countdown, there is always something to look forward to. It is as much a joy as a teacher as it is as a parent to share in their excitement, and we are all looking forward to using that excitement to expand the children's learning.

Whether you are talking about a friendship, a family member or even a teacher/pupil relationship, the cornerstone of any relationship is trust. We know that as parents you place a great amount of trust in us, as we nurture and educate your children. This half term, we are looking forward to teaching the children about trust and hope that you too can support us in explaining its importance to them at home.

I look forward to seeing you all at the school gate soon.