



# Castlethorpe First School NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1 - 2025



## Welcome back!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to the new school year. A very warm hello to all our new families, we look forward to getting to know you and we hope you quickly feel part of our friendly school community.

It has been lovely to see how excited the children have been to start school for the first time and everyone is settling in well. Our children in year one and two have enjoyed sharing news of their summer holidays and reestablishing friendships and routines. This half-term our focus is **Me and Where I Live** making a start with what we do to make friends in school and what are good routines and rules to help us get along well, learning and playing together.



In key stage 1 we have selected some lovely texts to teach the skill of writing postcards, description and traditional tales.

In science it's all about 'healthy humans' focusing on what we know about the human body and what we can do to keep fit and healthy. The children will become historians exploring life in the past in the village of Castlethorpe and will be stepping back in time by visiting Holdenby House, more details to follow soon.

## Open Mornings

We look forward to welcoming prospective September 2026 starters to our open mornings on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October** and again on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November** both at 1.30-2.30pm. If you have any friends or neighbours with pre-school children please share the dates. We are always delighted to show families around school and they are very welcome to call or email the office to make an appointment.

## Harvest

Our harvest service will be held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October** at St Simon and St Jude Castlethorpe, this will be followed by a short curriculum meeting (more info to follow on Dojo).



Please come and join us at 9 am. We will continue to support MK Food Bank which provides short term crisis support and care for families and individuals in Milton Keynes as well as top-up shops for people who need longer term support. You are welcome to bring in long-life food which can be used to create meals.



## Breakfast and Afterschool Club



We run a breakfast and afterschool club for the children at Castlethorpe. Breakfast club starts at 8 am, afterschool club (Caterpillar club) runs until 6pm. If you would like your child to attend any of these clubs please book through the parentMail app or call or email Lianne in the office.

## Thankfulness

Our value for this half term is thankfulness and we will be thinking about what this means in connection with harvest. We learn about our half-termly values through stories, discussion, real-life situations and world faiths. We love to notice when children use a value in school or hear about examples from home.

## Family Reading

Please join us every last Friday of the month for our Family Reading session. This takes place from 8.45 until 9 am. It is a chance to share a book with your child and catch up with any staff if you need to. We look forward to welcoming you to one of these sessions. Our first session will be held on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**.



## Religious Education

Milton Keynes have launched a new agreed syllabus for RE which we are now using to plan RE in school.

The new syllabus has been informed by developments in thinking and research around religion and worldviews in recent years. For further information see the website or speak to Mrs Wallace who leads RE.

## Education Blog

To mark the start of the new school year Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer has written a letter to parents and carers on Best Start in Life. To read his letter please follow the link

[Best Start in Life - Letter](#)

**The Education Hub** is a site for parents, pupils, education professionals that captures all you need to know about the education system. You'll find accessible, straightforward information on popular topics, Q&As, interviews and case studies, please do sign up if you are interested.

## Dates for your diary

- **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept - Children's Flu vaccinations**
- **7.30pm Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Sept -Phonics Meeting Online**
- **9.15am Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sept - Phonics Meeting Online (repeat)**
- **8.45-9.00am Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Sept -Family Read**
- **9am Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Oct -Harvest Festival in church, followed by parent curriculum meeting in school**
- **1.30pm Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Oct- Open afternoon for prospective families**
- **Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Oct - KS1 Trip to Holdenby House**
- **8.45-9.00am Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Oct - Family Read**



## A note from Mrs Wallace

A very warm welcome to our new families and welcome back to our existing families. I've loved being in school, meeting all the new children and hearing all about what everyone has got up to over the summer.

It's been a joy to see so many happy, smiley faces, of both children and staff, and clearly is feeling thankful for being back together.

Thankfulness is our value this term, and what a lot we have to feel thankful for here at Castlethorpe First School.

The summer gives us all a chance for a well earned rest and it is easy as September starts and the rush of life resumes, to not have time to notice how lucky we are in many different ways. Be it the sunshine, the fun discovering nature on our way to school or how kind our friends are being, we hope to help the children understand the importance of thankfulness.

I look forward to speaking to you all over this next half-term.