



Village
Schools
Federation

Castlethorpe First School NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term 1 2026



Welcome back!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to the new term and school year.



A very warm welcome to all our new families, we are looking forward to getting to know your child and you better over the coming weeks. The children have been very excited to share their news from the holidays and it is super to see our happy school community back together again.

There is lots going on so please keep an eye on the dates list for more information and please do speak to a member of staff or call in to the office if you have any questions at all, we are here and happy to help.

This terms topic: This is me!

What better starting point for learning than the children themselves! In science we will study animals including humans, identifying and naming body parts as well as exploring our five senses. Closely



linked is our history topic where the children will use historical enquiry to learn about significant people who have made a difference to the medical world, including Louis Braille, Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. We have chosen four super picture books to ignite our writing of factual descriptions, fairy stories and character settings! In EYFS we will be thinking about what it means to be me, which will include looking at feelings, senses, families, homes. Then we will look at the seasons and weather.

Please see our school website for more curriculum information.



Belonging

In PSHE and RE we will be focussing on what it means to belong and how we help each other belong. We will explore ourselves, what makes us the same and what makes us unique, families, school life, clubs and activities as well as how people belong to religious groups. We love to involve parents and the community in our learning, so if you'd like to share your experience of belonging please speak to a member of staff.

Our value: Generosity

This half-term, we will be exploring the importance and simplicity of generosity with the children. Through stories, discussions and practical activities, we will be encouraging them to think about how they can do good, show kindness and share with others.





Reading and Phonics

There will be an online VSF reading information evening on **Wednesday 16th September at 7pm**. This will be repeated on **Friday 18th September at 9am**. Please join us to find out how we teach reading and how you can support your child's reading journey at home.

Family Reading

On the last Friday of every month, we hold a Family Reading session at the school. This runs from 8.45 until 9.10 am. This is an opportunity for you to come and share a school reading book with your child. We hope that you will be able to make these sessions.



Open Days

We will be holding open days for prospective parents of September 2027 starters on Tuesday 13th October (1.30 – 2.30pm) and Wednesday 11th November (1.30-2.30pm). If you have any friends or neighbors with pre-school children please share one of our fliers with all the dates and times. If they can't make that date we are always delighted to show families round and they are very welcome to call the office to make an appointment.

Trip To MK Museum

Later this half-term the whole school will be visiting MK Museum to look at life in the past. More details will follow soon.

SEND Coffee and Chat

This will be our 3rd year of running federation SEND coffee and chat sessions for our families. Led by Mrs Adey Underwood, VSF SENDCo, our first date is **Thursday 15th October 9.15-10.30am** at The White House, Olney Middle School. Pre-school children welcome to come along too!

Breakfast Club and Caterpillar Club

At Castlethorpe First School, we can offer your child Breakfast and After-school Club until 6pm. The breakfast club is run by Mrs Almeida and Mrs Crompton and Mrs Jafari run Caterpillar Club (afterschool). If you are interested in your child attending any of these, please speak to Lianne in the office.



Dates for your diary

Reading and Phonics Meeting - Wed 16th Sept repeated Fri 18th Sept

Open Afternoons - Tues 13th October 1.30 -2.30pm and Wed 11th November 1.30-2.30pm

MK Museum Trip – Thurs 15th October

Bookfair -Thurs 15th October – Tues 20th October

Individual School Photos – Fri 16th October

Harvest Festival – Thurs 22nd October 9am – St Simon and St Jude Church

Family Reading – Fri 25th September, Fri 27th November.

End of half-term – Thurs 22nd October

School returns – Mon 2nd November

A note from Mrs Wallace



A very warm welcome to our new families and welcome back to those returning for another exciting year. It has been wonderful to see the children back in school and hear about their summer adventures.

Our value this half-term is **Generosity**, and I am reminded daily of the kindness and support shown across our school communities. Thank you to our staff, parents, governors, volunteers and local communities whose generosity helps make our schools safe, welcoming and inspiring places to learn. Special thanks to everyone who helped prepare and refresh our schools over the summer holidays.

This half-term, the children will be exploring how small acts of kindness and generosity can make a positive difference to others. We are also excited to continue developing our friendship with Christ Evangelical School in Sierra Leone, helping children learn about each other's lives and experiences. Through this partnership, our pupils will see how even simple acts of generosity and friendship can be valued and appreciated by others.