

# Castle Hill News: 15.11.24



Dear Parents,

Last week was another very busy one as we welcomed lots of visitors in to our school. This included a visit from two external education advisors. They were very impressed with the quality of teaching in the school and with the behavior of our pupils and their knowledge of the curriculum. I am very proud of both pupils and staff in making Castle Hill the fantastic school it is and want to say a huge thank you to all our parents for supporting us in ensuring our children get the quality of education they deserve.

## Parent Governor Result

I am delighted to announce that Mr. Matt Newman (father of Eve in Reception) is our newly elected parent governor (having been elected unopposed). We are looking forward to welcoming him on to our governing body and to working with him over the course of the next 4 years.

## Free School Meals

We are aware of the cost of living crisis and the burden this places on families. We are aware that some families may be entitled to free school meals, but have not yet applied for them. Please find below the link for applications. Please ask school if you have any questions.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/your-pupils/free-school-meals/>

## Art club

Art club starts next Thursday (28<sup>th</sup> November). Mrs. Ward has sent confirmation letters to those children who have a place this term.

If there is enough demand, we will run these sessions again.

## Important announcement – the school day

After this term's transition period in lengthening the school day, we will be extending the school day after Christmas in Reception and KS1 to 3.15pm. This is in order to align with KS2 and to ensure that we are offering the full number of hours for all children in school. We hope this will make it easier for you if you have children in both Key Stages as it will mean less time waiting in the playground at the end of the day.

## [Anti-bullying week](#)

This week has been national anti-bullying week and this year's theme is 'Choose respect'. Each teacher discussed this theme with their class at an age appropriate level.

As stated in our Anti-bullying policy, below is the definition of bullying:

'Bullying is a deliberate act, carried out with intent, and usually repeated that results from a conscious desire to hurt, threaten or frighten someone. It is an abuse of power resulting in pain and distress to the victim, who has in no way provoked the bullying.'

## [Big Write](#)

Next week's Big Write title is once again based on a picture and is linked to the work that each class has undertaken on anti-bullying week:

### Bullies:



Do these children look like bullies? Why/why not? Do all bullies look and act the same?  
Do you think they all join in? If they just watch, are they still bullies? What is a bystander? What is peer pressure?  
What makes a good friend?  
What is bullying?  
How old are bullies?  
Are some people more likely to be bullied? Who? Why?  
Have you ever been bullied? Have you ever witnessed bullying?  
What can you do if you're being bullied?  
How can bullying be tackled?

## [Big Write example – 'Remembrance'](#)

This week, the children wrote in response to the title of 'Remembrance' and I would like to share this beautiful and moving piece of writing from Esme in Y3:

*Silently, a stressed soldier stood in the twilight, the wavy wind howled as loud as a wolf. He was standing in the middle of bright blooming poppies, the sky turned as grey as a rock. He was very isolated. No one was with him, he lost all of his friends over the war. He was devastated. He could hear the sound of birds chirping and he smelled the horrible scent of blood. The puffy clouds were grey, it was getting late and dark. His friends were nowhere to be found, birds were flying in the air giving him a signal of peace. He put his mighty gun on the ground carefully.*

[Key dates for next week](#)

**Open afternoon for prospective Reception parents 2025, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November – 1.30-2.30pm.**

We look forward to welcoming you to our open afternoon for parents whose children start school in September 2025. Due to popular demand, we are offering a second tour of the school on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

[Key upcoming dates](#)

**Work celebration – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November all classes 2.30pm – 3.15pm** – you are warmly invited to drop in to your child's classroom and look at their books and celebrate their work with them. You are welcome any time from 2.30. Please come to the main office entrance.

**Music concert 28<sup>th</sup> November – Y5/6 parents.** We look forward to welcoming you to watch your children performing what they have been learning this term. If you cannot make it this time, there will be other opportunities to come along and watch your child play their instrument at the end of the Spring and Summer terms.

[Key dates – December](#)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Reception** nativity play. This is one of our favourite times of the year. Please come along to watch the magic of your child performing in their first ever school play.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas dinner and party day (details to follow). Please return if your child wants a Christmas dinner as then cook can organise the number of meals she needs to cook on the day. Thank you.

[Amazon Wishlist links](#)

English <https://amzn.eu/bnNwVET>      Forest School <https://amzn.eu/fkxiP5O>

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs. Ettrick