

Castle Hill News: 22.11.24



Dear Parents,

Last week, the children enjoyed a particularly exciting Friday as it was Children in Need day and they were also lucky enough to have a visit from a local author: B. Ware. The children were, once again, a credit to our school and I would like to share with you the testimonial from the author's Facebook page.



B. Ware

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My final [#freeschoolvisit](#) this week was to Castle Hill Primary, where the staff and pupils were all dressed for Children in Need. And what a Castle Hill welcome I received! The second I arrived, the lovely caretaker kindly acted as my porter, wheeling my trolley into the building and parking it safely in the hall. The pupils then filed in for assembly and were beautifully behaved, with so many of them answering questions throughout. When I asked them what they'd do if they had magic at their fingertips, one of the Reception pupils delightfully piped up with, 'I'd say ABRACADABRA!' I think all our hearts melted at that point. And I'm pretty sure ALL the children at Castle Hill Primary have magic at their fingertips, as the work they produced was phenomenal. The day flew by in a flash. It seems Castle Hill runs on a different time system to the rest of us (or maybe it was just that I didn't ever want to leave). I honestly couldn't believe how quickly the Year 3 pupils in my penultimate workshop came up with their masterpieces! Every single pupil shone today. I hope they know how proud their teachers and I were of them all. And they should be very proud of themselves, too. Special congratulations must go to Louis, Lily, Brooke, Sagee, George, Alex, Shay, Noah, Alfie, Lee-Anne, Isabella, Lincoln, Trinity, Tayler... and I'm sure I've missed a few of you... for earning certificates. But I'd like to thank every single pupil for making my visit so magical! Thank you, Karen, James, and all the staff, for the perfect end to this week, and for your tremendous help at home time!

B. Ware Whole School Assembly



Football

This week, Y2 played Y3 in a highly competitive match. Both teams did brilliantly showing grit and determination in the awful weather conditions.

The KS1 football team are due to play their first away match at Robinswood next Monday! They will be playing in their brand new kit sponsored by The Osborne Trust – a big thank you to Mr. Bowers for organising.



In other football news, our incredible KS2 A team played a home match against Coney Hill on Thursday which resulted in an impressive 8-1 win! Well done to all the team for such a great result. Thank you to Mr. Enon and Mrs. Gibbs too.

Big Write

Magic Carpet:



What is happening here?
Why/how is the carpet floating?
How is the boy feeling? Was he expecting this to happen?
How is the dog feeling? How do you know?
Does this bedroom belong to the boy? What does the setting tell you about his character?
What will happen next?

REMINDER: 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.

Attendance/Lateness

All children have the right to a full time education and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that children are in school where they should be during term time. Good attendance at school is essential to children's learning and to their wellbeing. Good attendance is considered to be anything above 95%. Attendance of all pupils is tracked and monitored weekly to ensure we are aware of any children who may be missing school regularly.

Being on time for school in the mornings is also vital to ensure a smooth start to the day, not only for your own child, but for others in the class. Please make sure that your child is at school on time every day. School starts at 8.45am with learning tasks ready for all children.

Thank you for supporting us to support your children in getting the very best start in life.

[School Meals](#)

A reminder to check the link to see whether or not you are entitled to help with the cost of school meals for your child. Please ask school if you have any questions – we will be happy to help.

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

[Key dates for next week](#)

Work celebration – Wednesday 27th 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 28th November – Y5/6 parents – 2.30pm. 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 upcoming dates](#)

Friday 13th December 9am – 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.

Friday 13th December – whole school. Christmas jumper day.

Friday 13th December – Y1-Y6. PAWS due in.

Tuesday 17th December – Christmas dinner and party day (details to follow). **Please return by 29th November** 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.

Thursday 19th December – term finishes at 2pm.

[Amazon Wishlist links](#)

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

Please see below for some reminders from The Friends.

Have a wonderful weekend. Mrs. Ettrick

'THE FRIENDS' NOTICES



- Raffle tickets are on sale in the playground before and after school or you can collect some from the office. They are £5 per book. Please return cash and completed stubs to the committee. The draw will take place on 13th December.
- Beauty and the Beast pantomime is coming to school on 30th November. If you have ordered tickets you can expect to receive them next week. There are a handful of tickets remaining at £12 each.
- We are running a wreath making workshop on 4th December and are excited to be able to offer more places than last year for this popular event. It costs £25 for all of your materials and expert guidance. Please contact the committee to book your place.