



Castle Hill News: 10.1.25

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back

Happy New Year!

It has been really lovely to have the children back in school this week and it has been a very positive start to the term. It has also been wonderful to welcome back Mrs. Richards following her maternity leave and to have Mrs. Houlston back with us in Reception - I know the children have missed her!

This term, we are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Sharma to our school. She will be working in the office so many of you will speak to her on the phone or see her at the Reception desk. Please say hello and give her a true Castle Hill welcome.

A new term means new topics so please check the website for your child's topic web which will tell you all about what they will be learning.

As the weather becomes colder, please also ensure that your children have a warm coat and outdoor PE kit. These may be required for a variety of PE units or visits from external sports coaches.

PAWS

PAWS for the Spring Term will go out on Monday. Look out for the activity about a planned Art exhibition all about sculpture!

Water bottles

We have noticed that more and more children have been bringing 'Stanley Cup' style water bottles to school since the start of the new term. Whilst we understand that these are very popular, they are not suitable for the classroom due to their size and the fact that they do not seal. Therefore, please send your child to school with a standard sized, lidded metal or plastic water bottle. Children may refill these as often as they need to throughout the day.

[RSE](#)

This term, your child will be taught their respective Relationship and Sex Education units which are age appropriate. Please see the following information from Miss Baldwin our PSHCE lead:

This term we will be covering our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum across the school.

The majority of the teaching will focus on the building of positive safe relationships and will reinforce life skills to support this. We will also cover the science topic of life cycles in KS2 and changes during puberty higher up the school. All classes will also have some teaching around personal hygiene.

If you have any queries about what will be covered in these lessons, please see the Relationships and Sex Education Policy on our school website.

[Spring Term After School Clubs](#)

We are delighted to be able to add three new after school clubs to our offer for this term.

On Mondays (beginning next week – 13th January), Y3 are invited to attend a multi-sports club.

On Thursdays, Sport Active are running a Y4/5/6 football club (priority was given to those pupils who attended the KS2 football trials in the Autumn Term) and Miss Smith and Mrs. Warren are running a gross and fine motor skills club for selected children in Reception/Year 1 and Year 2.

KS1 football club (for Y1s this term), Art club, gymnastics and Young Voices all continue this term.

In addition to this, our fabulous reading ambassadors run a story time club for Y1 and Y2 children during assembly time on Tuesdays and Lila in Y5 runs a book club for a group of Y4 pupils on a Thursday lunchtime. They are currently reading 'Edie and the Box of Flits' and enjoying it immensely.

[Big Write](#)

Next week's Big Write title is 'When I grow up'. Please talk through ideas at home. Y1 will be completing a different writing task in line with our assessment calendar.

[Attendance/Lateness](#)

A big thank you for supporting us in getting your child to school every day on time. This is something as a school that we feel passionately about as it gives your child the best start in life. We have noticed a real improvement in children being in school on time ready to begin their learning. This really does ensure a smooth start to the day for both your child and the other children in the class. Your support really is appreciated.

We are aware that we are in the season of coughs, colds and other illnesses and we do understand that children get poorly and sometimes the only place they should be is recovering at home.

However, good attendance at school is absolutely vital to children's education and their life chances. Good attendance is considered to be 95% or above.

Attendance that falls below 90% is considered to be persistent absence.

We monitor all pupils' attendance closely and, if your child's attendance is a cause for concern and is not improving, you may receive a letter from our school attendance and inclusion officer – Mrs. Bradford - informing you that your child's attendance is of concern and offering support to help improve this.

[Boots Pharmacy Support](#)

We have received the following information from Boots Pharmacy Services for parents which may be of use to you:

Think Pharmacy First

Most Boots pharmacies in England are now providing the NHS Pharmacy First service which allows pharmacists to provide advice and where appropriate, supply NHS medicines for the following conditions:

- Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)

- Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- Shingles (aged 18 years and over)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)

If you have symptoms that suggest you may have one of these conditions, you can pop into your local Boots pharmacy and be offered a consultation with a pharmacist in a private consultation room. Your GP surgery may also refer you to the service if you contact them but they believe it is appropriate for you to be seen by a pharmacist.

If you have symptoms that suggest you have one of the above conditions, why not give the Pharmacy First service a try?

For more information, visit nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst

[Key dates for next week](#)

Monday 13th January – 3.15pm – 4.15pm Y3 pupils Multi-sport club (outdoors so warm outdoor PE/Sports kit required)

Thursday 16th January – 12.30 – 2.30pm KS2 Panathlon at Gloucester Academy – invitation only

Friday 17th January – all classes – Cricket coaching during the school day – warm, outdoor PE kit required

[Key upcoming dates](#)

Tuesday 4th February – SEND coffee morning – 9am – 10am - all welcome (more details to follow)

Wednesday 12th February – Y3/4 Gymnastics competition (details tbc)

[Reading books](#)

We are very low on certain levels of Oxford Reading Tree reading books (L15 and L16) for our pupils in Years 4 and 5 and, next week, will be adding some titles to our Amazon wishlist. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

[Amazon Wishlist links](#)

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

Polite reminders

As we begin the new term, a reminder to not park on the zigzag safety lines and that the car park is for staff only. Many thanks.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs. Ettrick

[After school clubs/extra-curricular activities – Spring 2025](#)

The Keep is our after school provision. It is open from 3.15 – 5.15pm. For bookings, please go to thekeep.kidsclub.hq.co.uk. For more information please contact Mrs. Ward. thekeep@virginmedia.com

Monday: External provider Severn Valley Gymnastics. **Currently fully booked.**

Y1 Football Club 3.15-4.15 pm (Mr Bowers)

Y3 Multi sports club 3.15-4.15 pm (External provider - Follow My Lead)

Kickboxing (external provider) 5pm onwards

Tuesday: Y4 Book club (invitation only - lunchtimes: reading ambassadors)

KS1 dance club 3.10 – 4.00pm (Mrs. Hending)

KS2 dance club 4.10-5.00pm (Mrs. Hending)

Wednesday: Young Voices choir Y5/6 – lunchtime (Mrs. Ward)

Thursday: Art club - all age groups - 3.15 - 4.30 pm (Mrs. Ward)

Gross/fine motor skills club (by invitation) 3.15 - 4.15 pm (Miss Smith/Mrs. Warren)

Y4/5/6 football club 3.15 - 4.15 pm (External provider - Sport Active)

Kickboxing (external provider) 5pm onwards