



Castle Hill News: 17.04.26

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back for the Summer Term. Let's hope it brings some sunshine for us all. As the weather begins to improve, please remember to apply suncream to your child before school and send them in with a sunhat. The children are excited about the prospect of playing on the field from Monday (weather permitting). We were also pleased to welcome back Miss Baldwin from maternity leave this week.

Whole school writing week

Monday saw the launch of our first whole school writing week. We had a visit from 'red crayon' in assembly on Monday morning and all week the children have been busy writing about the same book: 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. I have seen some fantastic examples of creative writing this week and Mrs. Davidson is going to be putting together a display in the hall of the range of writing that the children have produced from Reception to Year 6.



[Y5/Y6 residential meetings](#)

I want to draw Year 5 and 6 parents' attention to 2 dates that have been added to the calendar for this term.

Year 5 parents: Camping and residential 2027 meeting – **Wednesday 29th April @ 6pm**

Year 6 parents: Final residential and Enterprise project/theatre trip meeting –
Thursday 21st May @ 6pm

[New vision](#)

This week in assembly, I was very excited to launch my vision for Castle Hill with the children.

Castle Hill Vision statement

At our school, we act with integrity, take pride in our actions, nurture curiosity, create a strong sense of belonging and encourage bravery in all that we do.

We talked a lot about our new strapline:

Words matter. Why?

I firmly believe in the power of words and how they can shape the world we live in. Without words, we cannot communicate verbally or in writing. Language allows us to understand the world around us and to make sense of relationships. Words have the power to empower, hurt or encourage others.

The children came up with some amazing thoughts around this themselves.

'It's not just the words you use, it's how you say them.'

'Before words, Stone Age people had to communicate through cave paintings. This is called parietal art.'

'Words matter because you can say something kind and it can make someone smile.'

'Words matter so that you can play games with your friends.'

'Words matter otherwise you can feel alone.'

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEST CHANGES

This week, changes to the grammar school entrance exam were announced. The changes mean that from next year, children will sit the grammar school test in the summer term of Year 5 rather than the autumn term of Year 6.

This means that the current **Year 4s** will be the first group of pupils to sit the test (if parents wish for them to do so) in the summer term of Y5 (Summer Term 2027).

Further details can be found on some of the grammar school websites.

[Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 morning drop off arrangements](#)

This week the children have been able to come in to the classroom from 8.40 am instead of lining up when the bell rings at 8.45am. This has led to a much smoother drop off process and resulted in children being ready for registration when the bell rings. I know that some parents have also commented that the extra 5 minutes that they have gained has made it easier for them to get to work on time.

[PAWS](#)

On Monday, children will receive their new PAWS folder. The activities for this term have some key themes: The National Year of Reading, the new school vision and the Packtype and PAWS event for parents coming up on July 1st as well as the usual topic related activities. This is in addition to the expectation that children should be reading daily at home, practising their times tables on TTRS (Times Tables Rockstars) and practising spellings from their year group sheets which were given out at the first parents' evening in October (another copy has been included in your child's PAWS folder).

Have a good weekend.

Mrs. Ettrick

[Key dates for next week](#)

Friday 24th April – FRIENDS SCHOOL DISCO (details to follow)

[Key upcoming dates for the Summer Term](#)

Wednesday 29th April – 6pm Y5 parents' meeting (Y5 camping trip/Y6 2027 residential)

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday – no school

Thursday 7th May – Y5 trip – details

Monday 11th May – KS2 SATS week

Thursday 21st May – 6pm Y6 final residential meeting

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May – Half-term

Monday 1st June – Back to school

CALL TO ACTION

Year 1 trip to Hartpury College Farm Monday 11th May 2026	Please complete the consent form on your child's Edulink account
Year 5 Trip to Greystones Farm Nature Reserve	Please complete the consent form on your child's Edulink account