



Autumn Term 2017

Newsletter

As we reach the end of the autumn term I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support in all of our endeavours. By working in partnership, we are able to achieve so much for all our children and their families.

This term, it has been announced that Castle Hills Primary is ranked in the top 10% of the best performing schools in England, as well as coming 2nd out of 128 schools in Doncaster; a first for us and an achievement we can all be immensely proud of. However, it's not just the big headlines that deserve recognition; it's the determination of all our pupils and the commitment of all our staff to be the best they can be, every day, in every way, that makes us who we are.

I hope everyone enjoys the festive holiday, making the most of family and friends who, during our busy lives, we sometimes forget. Merry Christmas Everyone, see you all in the New Year :0)

Mrs McBride

Foundation 1

On your marks, get set, go!

We have gone up a gear this term- we began our term by learning about transport and then we have learnt all about our 'real life superheroes'. We have learnt all about the roles of the emergency services and how they help us! We have been dressing up as 'real life superheroes' and re-enacting the roles that they play!



We have been learning different counting skills, beginning to learn number recognition and we have been learning to recognise our shapes throughout our maths sessions. As well as this we have been taking part in exciting art and craft activities and we have been baking each week.

Our home school links continue to be extremely strong! All of our parents are working with their child on their set targets and providing us with information regarding their child's



achievements' through their 'Magical Me' book. We have had a fantastic parent's crafts session, with a Halloween theme! We went outdoors on a Halloween hunt and made various scary things! We ended our Halloween week with a class party which we all thoroughly enjoyed!



We have had a magical adventure at 'Cannon Hall Farm' where we met and fed all of the animals at the farm, followed by a tractor ride and a special visit from Santa! We had an amazing day on our trip- a great way to end our first term together!

We will look forward to another enchanted and magical term as we learn that 'we all live happily ever after'.

Mrs Hodgson and Mrs Gurnhill

Foundation 2 and Year 1

This term we have been learning about scientific changes. We have focused on reversible and irreversible changes. The children have enjoyed participating in hands on science experiments. They had a visit from Elsa out of Frozen, she got up to mischief in the classroom freezing toys. We have been exploring water and how it can change form from a liquid to a solid. The children were given the opportunity to explore ice by making ice rainbows, helping superheroes escape from the



ice and mixing frozen paint cubes. This learning has been extended in the outdoor learning environment.



The children also had a visit from the Mad Hatter, who set up a magical tea party for the children to enjoy. He asked them to help him mix paint and food colouring using syringes to paint his hat the correct colour. The children were asked to make predictions and give reasons for their ideas. The children were very excited to send the Mad Hatter their findings.

'Do fish have fingers?'

Recently we have explored whether fish have fingers. The children were given the opportunity to investigate different types of fish and to explore whether fish do really have fingers. They enjoyed touching, exploring and labelling fish body parts. By the end of the lesson all the children were able to name the different body parts of a fish and enjoyed some creative activities around fish.



Please look on the website for pictures!

Mrs Cronin, Mrs Snaith, Mrs Mjadzelics, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Hoyland and Miss Parkin

Year 1

Well done to all of year one for a very successful first term. We have been very busy learning and creating.



Through our Imaginative learning Projects this term we have been learning about the Enchanted Woodland and Splendid Skies. The children have investigated the trees around school and learnt how to identify them through their leaves and seeds, learnt about the life cycle of a tree and what happens to them throughout the year. In science we have looked at how shadows are created and how we can make them bigger and thought carefully about

different kinds of habitats. As part of our half term home learning we all created some amazing habitats in shoeboxes, we had everything from Polar Regions to the blue abyss they looked fantastic in our classroom. Have a look at our class web page to see pictures of them all.



In English we researched hedgehogs and wrote our own non-chronological reports about them, discovering some fascinating facts including that they have over 5,000 spines and are pink when they are born. We have enjoyed reading and listening to lots of different stories, particularly 'Knuffle Bunny' and 'The Cloudspotter'. We have worked on traditional tales and are currently listening to 'Grimm's Fairy Tales'. We all enjoyed writing our own 'Knuffle Bunny' story and thinking about the adventures Trixie would have with her favourite soft toy.

Over the term we have enjoyed joining the whole school for Young Voices practices and are looking forward to taking part in the school Young Voices concert in January.

A big thank you to our parents for all the help and support they have given us this term with reading and home learning. We are looking forward to another great term.

Miss Ward and Mrs Shillito

2/3A

What a fantastic term we have had, class 2/3A! We have been very busy with our topics Predators and Flow. We learnt about a variety of different predators and how they were represented on a food chain. Not only did we look at animals, we also looked at carnivorous plants and learnt about them first hand as we had one in our classroom and some of you even brought one for home! For our topic Flow, we have looked

at different bodies of water in our locality and other countries then linked this to our class text 'Come away from the water, Shirley'.

Some of the year three children had an amazing fun packed weekend at Robinwood, where they experienced a large variety of outdoor and indoor activities including rock climbing, zip line, caving, trapeze and a knights' quest! I am now really looking forward to taking the year two children to Austerfield study Centre for their residential where we will explore the outdoor environment. Thank you Class 2/3A for all your hard work this term and I can't wait to continue this next term.



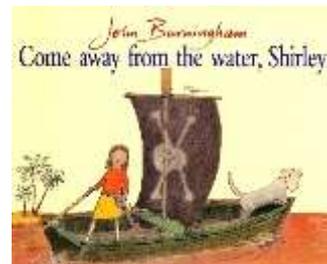
Mrs Ashton, Miss Parkinson and Mrs Laver.

2/3S

Hello from 2/3S....What a busy but fun term we've had! This term we've been doing lots of new learning in our topics 'Predators' and 'Flow'. We have been learning about the different animals, their habitats and food chains as well as learning about bodies of water in our country such as rivers, lakes, oceans and seas. We have also had the chance to monitor how water is transported



through a flower and build our knowledge when learning about carnivorous plants. During our science lessons we have looked in more detail at the 'Human Body', class 2/3S have shown a real interest in learning about a balanced diet, our skeletal system and muscular system. Furthermore the year 3's have had a fantastic residential to Robin Wood where many children faced some worries but thoroughly enjoyed themselves, they were great role models and represented Castle Hills beautifully. They should be as proud of themselves as Miss Simister definitely is. The year 2's are now looking forward to attending their residential to Austerfield in the New Year.



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and lots of happiness for the New Year. Have a wonderful holiday.

Miss Simister, Mrs Cragg and Miss Harman

4/5N

Over the autumn term we have covered two very different topics. The Blue Abyss was all about the deep ocean and the vast array of animals that live there. The children created collages and drew pictures of these unique creatures using different mediums including paints, pastels and pencils.



Our second autumn topic was Burps, Bottoms and Bile which focusses on the Human Digestive System. In small groups children tried to recreate human waste using everyday items. This included crushing up biscuits with water and pushing them through pairs of tights (something the children loved doing).



Doncaster Rovers Football Foundation have been coming into school on Thursday afternoons throughout the autumn term to lead some footballing sessions. The sessions have been aimed at teamwork, building basic skills and enjoyment of sport. The sessions have been well received by the children and enjoyed by all.

Finally as a class we were lucky enough to have an outside Science agency come into the school and lead a practical Science lesson. The lesson was based on vitamin C tablets reacting with water and observing what happened. The children thoroughly enjoyed investigating the outcomes and getting very messy in the process.

Mr Newsham and Mrs King

4/5 B



Throughout the autumn term, we have studied two very contrasting topics. Blue Abyss was an exploration of the deep ocean and its more unusual inhabitants. The children were inspired to create some amazing artwork, showing the unique characteristics and adaptations of these creatures. We learned about the different ocean layers and the types of animals that survive in each. Food chains and environmental issues were also part of our learning. We thoroughly

enjoyed showing our learning at the parents' assembly and were very proud of our efforts.

Our second autumn topic was Burps, Bottoms and Bile, which focussed on the human digestive system. We learned the really tricky vocabulary that is associated with the digestive system (as well as some words that made us smile!) and we had a great time learning 'how spit does its bit' – yuck! We created some great posters to show our knowledge of teeth and, by the end of term, we knew the names of all the strange body parts and could explain their different functions.

This term we have really come together as a class, creating our own class rules and following these to make sure that we respect and support each other. We are looking forward to our new Spring term topics: 'Playlist', which is about music and sound and 'Stargazers', where we will learn all about the solar system and space exploration.



Mrs Brown, Mrs Sneath and Mrs Harmer

4/5K

Over the autumn term we have covered two very different topics. The Blue Abyss was all about the deep ocean and the vast array of animals that live there. The children learnt a lot about different food chains, life cycles and the problem with overfishing.

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Finally as a class we have enjoyed a vast array of art projects, using a variety of sketching techniques to sketch certain objects as well as painting various sea creatures. We have enjoyed composing music using a variety of instruments including the drum, tambourine and xylophone.

Mr Kent and Miss Derbyshire

6H

Year 6 have had a very busy first term, settling into life at the top of the school. The first half of the autumn term was spent looking at the topic of 'Bloodheart' which was introduced with the dissection of real pigs'

hearts. After an initial bit of squeamishness, the children were fascinated with the workings of this and how similar they were to our own hearts.

Soon we had children with fingers inside an aorta or a vein - very good fun! Throughout the topic, children focussed on our bodies and how the heart and lungs play a vital role in keeping us alive. We wrote stories and descriptions based on the feared pirate Captain Bloodheart and very persuasive anti-smoking campaigns. The second half of the term saw us looking at 'Frozen Kingdom' with a focus on the Arctic and Antarctic. Children researched and wrote about the Siberian Tiger and looked at the novel *The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe*.



Outside of school, the class continue to shine. Ellie Vedder performed in a concert at Lincoln Cathedral with G4 whilst Summer Snaith was selected for the Great Britain Ice Skating development squad. Many children continue to impress on the sporting field playing for various football, rugby and cricket teams. We really do have a talented group of children.

Mr Harris and Mrs Bennett

Castle Hills School Council

The school council this term have dived head first into the world of politics. They have experienced first-hand what it is like to be a politician and campaign for change.

The first task was to listen to children around the school about what issues they were having in school and things that they wanted to see changed. They then brought all these issues into the school council meetings to discuss one that they could tackle.



The school playground was a common feature in all the discussions with children identifying that the concrete was too hard for them to play on as they kept on hurting themselves. They also stated that there was not enough equipment or stimulation in the playground as well as the iron bars making it feel like a prison.

Next the school council began writing a news report on this. They had to write a script, a speech and also an interview. The children videoed themselves performing these pieces of work in order to submit it to the Lit Film Fest. A film festival designed for young children to showcase their acting and film making talents.

The schools submission was a great success and won the award for October. This included a film making day with a professional crew and a submission to the Lit Film Fest. The crew came in to school to re-film the submission with professional equipment as well as deliver a whole school assembly.

The film was completed and was shown to Lord Jim Knight (the head of the Times Educational Supplement and an MP). His reaction was great to the video praising the children for their commitment to the news report as well as their interest in politics. He was thankful for the issues brought up by the children and wanted to take them into the House of Lords to discuss.

The school council has really gone above and beyond on this project working during lunchtimes and after school. They have been great ambassadors for the school and worked extremely hard.

The school council's next project is to tackle healthy lifestyles and how we can promote healthy eating and exercise throughout the school and also the wider community.

Watch our report on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oSX1o_n0P8

Thank you for reading.

School Council

Physical Education – School Competition

We have had a very busy and successful first term for sport this year. We started the year by hosting the pyramid netball skills festival, we were joined by Sunnyfields, Rosedale, Bentley High Street and Kirkby Avenue for an afternoon of skills practice. This gave us the opportunity to develop our netball skills and mix with children from other schools, it was a great event and enjoyed by all who attended.



On Thursday 28th September we took part in the pyramid cross country, in preparation for the Doncaster Cross Country the following week. This was great preparation and gave us the opportunity to run against other schools and there were some fantastic individual performances.



The Doncaster Cross Country Championships were held at Balby Carr Community Academy on Thursday 5th October. All the children represented the school brilliantly and put in some fantastic individual performances. Francesca Freeman (year 2) ran in the Year 3 and 4 girls' race and was pipped at the post into second place. All the girls ran well in their first cross country and as a team finished 10th overall.

The year 3 and 4 boys put in a great team performance and finished runners up, Cody Bramwell 5th place, following their success the year 5 and 6 boys went on to finish 3rd in the team competition with Callum Freeman coming 5th. The Year 5 and 6 girls put in outstanding individual performances: Charlotte Torrington 4th, Karlie McQuade 5th, Evie Womack 6th and Jessica Groves 14th. These performances meant that the girls finished as Doncaster champions. Due to these fantastic performances we have three teams, year 3 and 4 boys, year 5 and 6 boys and year 5 and 6 girls that have qualified for the South Yorkshire Youth Games on 6th February. We are all looking forward to representing school and Doncaster at this event.



Also this term we have taken part in the following School Sports Games competitions: Year 5 and 6 Boys Hockey, Year 3 and 4 Boys Football, Year 5 and 6 Boys Football and Year 5 and 6 Girls football. All the teams put in fantastic performances and as always represented Castle Hills brilliantly. A special mention is needed for the hockey team, the only mixed team in the boys' competition. For most of the team it was their first time playing hockey and they did amazingly well amongst the more experienced players, finishing 5th.



The final sporting event of the term was the pyramid netball festival which we hosted. We were once again joined by Sunnyfields, Rosedale and Bentley High Street. Over the term each school had been running an afterschool netball club to build upon the skills they had learnt at the beginning of the term. This was a great event as the children were able to put the skills into game situations. It was a pleasure to watch the children's knowledge of how to play netball increase over the afternoon and to watch some very competitive games.

It has been a pleasure to take these pupils around Doncaster to the different events and they should all be proud of themselves and their achievements, as we are. Mr Rossi, Mrs Sneath and I are looking forward to next term's sporting events and continuing our sporting journey.

Miss Ward, Mr Rossi and Mrs Sneath

Doncaster Book Awards

On Wednesday 18th October a group of enthusiastic readers from years 5 and 6 attended the launch of the Doncaster Book Awards. They were joined by 1500 children from all over Doncaster for a fun-filled celebration of poetry, pictures and stories at the Doncaster Dome. The special guests were the very funny poet **Paul Cookson** and former Children's Laureate, author and illustrator **Chris Riddell**, not to mention the wonderful Talegate Theatre. A memorable day was had by all, including Mrs Bennett being quoted in the press. Now we are all enjoying reading the books from the short list and publishing our book reviews on the DBA website. We can't wait for July to find out which book will be the winner and will it be our favourite.



Relaxing with Paul Cookson and Chris Riddell

NSPCC Fundraiser



All the children took part in the NSPCC Fundraising – Buddy's Work Out – a great afternoon was had by all. Mrs Sneath and Mrs Toyne, with a group of Year 6 leaders, put us all through our paces on an active circuit. The children all took home a fundraising pack and did an amazing job raising a fantastic £954.09. A big well done to Miss Simister's class who won the class competition for raising the most money.

A big thank you to everybody who sponsored the children.

Frenchgate Centre Carol Singing



Years 5 and 6 entertained shoppers in the Frenchgate Centre on Friday 8th December, they put on a fantastic show and represented the school brilliantly.

They raised £399 for school, an amazing effort from everybody involved.

Children's University

We welcomed Sam from Children's University to school on Tuesday 28th November for our first passport count of the year, she loved the fact that there were lots of new passports this time. Sam followed the count with a whole school assembly telling us all about the Children's University and celebrating our achievements. 17 children received certificates – some received their first, others received their fifth or sixth. Keep up the hard work – and remember to get your passport signed. Interested in taking part? You can buy a passport from the school office, they cost £3.50 or have a look on the school website, all the information you need is on the Children's University page.



Christingles

As part of our Christmas celebrations we came together as a whole school to learn about and make Christingles. It was great to see how much the children had remembered from last year and how enthusiastic they were about making their own. They were split into mixed year group groups, with the older children helping and supporting the younger in making their Christingles. Again this was a fantastic afternoon and is becoming a Castle Hills' Christmas tradition.



Bike It

Once again we took part in the Modeshift Active 10 Day Challenge – a fantastic well done to the 100 children who came to school actively for 10 days. To celebrate, we held our second Active Breakfast – we were joined by over 100 children and parents for breakfast. We are all looking forward to the next Active challenge, can we beat 100 children? We are now in our second year as a Bike It School, so far this year we have enjoyed playground cycle skills for Years 3, 4 and 5 and a great bike ride to Cusworth Hall. Next term we are looking forward to Bike Ability for Year 6, Get off Stabilisers and another bike ride.



School Uniform Reminder

- Blue cardigan or jumper. Fleece optional.
- Dark grey or black trousers.
- Knee length black/grey skirts or pinafore dresses. Gingham in summer.
- White shirts, blouses or polo shirts.
- Flat, black, plain shoes (No Trainers and no logos).
 - Sandals, footwear without backs and heels must not be worn at any time.
 - Practical footwear must be worn for playtime allowing children to run and play.



- Ankle boots can be worn in school (boots above this height should not be worn in school-only to school and then can be changed to practical school footwear).
- Socks: ankle or knee length – white, grey or black ONLY.
- Tights: Black or Grey ONLY.
- No jewellery other than small stud earrings and a wrist watch.
- No elaborate hair accessories.
- Long hair (past shoulder length) to be tied back No extreme hair fashions including dyed hair. No images/lines cut in.
- No tattoos or nail varnish
- Wellington boots- if worn to school in bad weather conditions, need to be changed when you arrive in school.



P.E kit

- Navy blue/black shorts,
- Grey/navy/black tracksuit bottoms for outdoor use.
- Grey/navy/black tracksuit top or sweatshirt for outdoor use.
- White cotton round neck t-shirt
- Trainers/plimsolls
- No earrings/jewellery to be worn.



The consequences of non-compliance will be a phone call home and a spare uniform may be provided by school where necessary. In some circumstances we may ask that your child be collected to change into correct uniform. By not complying with the school uniform rules, pupils will not be able to represent school off-site.

If your child has a problem with any part of their uniform, we ask for an explanation in writing in their planner and for the situation to be rectified as soon as possible.

Dates for your diary

Monday 8 th January 2018	School re-opens
Tuesday 9 th January 2018	Big Talk Parents Meeting 3.30pm
Friday 12 th January 2018	Big Talk Education - pupils only
Monday 15 th January 2018	Key Stage Two Young Voices - Sheffield Arena
Friday 26 th January 2018	Young Voices School Concert
Tuesday 6 th February 2018	South Yorkshire Games Cross Country Finals - Cannon Hall



*Wishing you all a
Very Merry Christmas*



And

A Happy New Year

From

All the Staff and Pupils at

Castle Hills

Primary School

