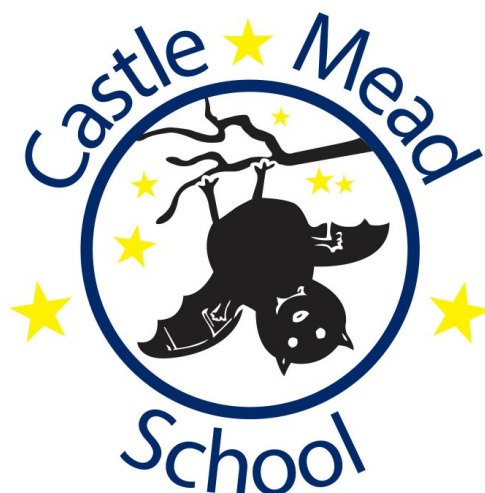


Castle Mead Termly Newsletter



Welcome to our first termly newsletter that is full of information about all the wonderful things that have happened at our school over the start of the year!

**Top tip: use the grey square icon on the bottom right of your screen to see contents and to navigate the newsletter quickly and easily. Or simply scroll down as usual.*

Reception have had a lovely first term at school! We shared our special treasure boxes with our new friends to talk about our family and favourite things.

In literacy we have been reading the story Owl Babies, we have been sequencing the story and writing messages to the owls.

We have also been reading the Three Little Pigs, and have enjoyed making houses out of straw and bricks and writing signs to go with it. We have also learnt to retell the story using story maps and actions!

In maths reception have been learning to subitise numbers to 5 and looking at how 1, 2 and 3 are made!

The children have also really enjoyed pen disco, making different patterns to different songs!

Poppy Rees in Serotines won a competition in Stagecoach a few weeks ago. She was in a small group and they had to perform a monologue. Her group won for her age and she received a book token.

At the end of August, Harri
Wiltshire County Tennis Ch
got through to the singles f
Wiltshire for her age group
engraved shield, medal, ce

Amelia Hamblin has been invited to join the Royal Ballet!

Congratulations to each of you!

This term we have been de
into nursery. They have ha
to make connections with a

Every week the children ha
and songs and have enjoye

The children have enjoyed a wide variety of books from classic fairy tales to stories that help the children to understand their feelings. The children have particularly enjoyed reading Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper and having the chance to make their own pumpkin soup

The children have enjoyed exploring the environment both outside....



and inside...

Autumn

In term 1, year 1 have been looking out for seasonal changes and learning all about Autumn. We have been checking our thermometer every morning and watching the weather get colder and colder! We have also chosen a special acorn tree in our playground to observe throughout the year. This term we noticed; the leaves starting to fall and change colour and acorns falling.

Special Visitors

This term we have had lots of special visitors. We had Fran the Nurse. She talked to us about people and the human body. We also had Mr Binx the cat. We asked him questions like; what does your pet eat? How do they sleep? Thank you to all who enjoyed learning more about pets.

Longleat

To answer our enquiry question – “How are we different to other animals?” Year 1 visited Longleat. We went through the Safari and spotted some huge Lions and Tigers which linked to all of our wonderful writing and the fact files we wrote in English. After the Safari, we walked around and saw lots of different animals from different countries. Some of our favourites were the Koala's, Sloth and Red Panda's. We ended our day with a boat trip to see some very noisy Sea Lions, Gorilla's and Monkeys. We were extremely lucky to catch a rare glimpse of the Hippo out of the water! We had a fantastic time learning about all of the different features of all the animals.

This term it was wonderful to have children from Ukraine, Zimbabwe and Poland. We had our first Grandparent a day and a dimension to the morning tea gathering with non-stop conversation. It reminded me there was cake to eat and coffee the next morning and multilingual.

This term the children in the Resource Base have been learning about feelings and friendship. The children in Spotted Bats have focused on recognising their feelings, and have been learning about what qualities make a good friend including how friends make you feel. The children in Long-Nosed Bats have built on that knowledge by also learning how to form new friendships, and have also focused strategies of resolution & resolving conflict. They put their learning into practise by meeting up with some of the children in the Resource Base at River Mead School at a local park. There, they practised approaching someone new, introducing themselves and asking if their new friend if they wanted to play. Finally, the children in Flying Foxes Bats have been learning how to recognise unhealthy relationships in addition to all of the above.

A team of Y5 runners attended this event after school near the end of term. So many of the children experienced great individual achievements with lots of our runners finishing in the top 10 of their race. Congratulations to Parker L who was the outright winner of the Y5/6 boys' race and a huge well done to everyone for their support of each other - a real credit to the school!

On 27th September, Castle Mead celebrated European Day of Languages. This is a great opportunity to celebrate different languages spoken across Europe and beyond! Our highlights included the children being the teachers, Miss Vines' cooking and a visit from Matias' mum who read a story in Portuguese. We shared all of our learning in a whole school assembly at the end of the day and it was great to see such a wide variety of countries and languages being showcased. Well done everyone!

On 4th October, Year 3 enjoyed a school trip to the Stonehenge. The children were immersed into Stone Age life and particularly enjoyed walking around a Neolithic village, visiting the stones and

learning lots of interesting facts along the way. Members of the public complimented the children on their exemplary behaviour and they were a real credit to Castle Mead. Well done Year 3!

It is so lovely to see the children's progress over their academic year. We welcome the new year with bright and crisp new uniforms. The children have gone through a growth in their learning and it was a great time to refresh items that can be donated to and purchased at a small cost. New items can be found on our website - the full uniform range can be found at <https://www.castlemeadprimary.co.uk.com/product-category/t-shirts/>

James from Midda Marshal Arts came in this term to deliver demonstrations to the children in Y1-Y6 including our Resource Base and Hedgerow classes. The children had great fun trying out some moves and learning about the after-school clubs that are on offer at Castle Mead. More information is on their website: <https://middamartialarts.com/>

This annual football tournament takes place over 5 dates with 6 matches to play on the John of Gaunt astro pitches. Our Y6 team have played 5 matches so far and have 7 points which is 4th place in the league. Our final match is after half term and against Walwayne Court and it is mathematically possible for us to finish 2nd overall - the best of luck to them all! Levi F-B is also currently the top goal scorer in the whole league with 4 magnificent goals. Congratulations!

Badminton has been added to the PE curriculum for Y5 and Y6 this year. Up until recently, we only had 7 rackets and all were in a pretty bad way. A huge thanks to Neil at The Stringers Shed in Melksham who was able to put 6 of them back into play for a reduced rate to the school. Lots of new rackets were also purchased using some of the money raised last year when Katrina Hart visited. Lots of additional rackets were also donated to the school for free over the summer holidays including a few from Mrs Lake. Phoenix Badminton Club in Trowbridge also very kindly donated 48 shuttlecocks for free to add to the few we already had which means that every child in a class can have their own racket and shuttle! There are some amazing players in these year groups who would be wonderful assets to the local clubs. Information about Phoenix is on their website here: <https://www.phoenixtrowbridge.club/>

A new group of buddies have started meeting this term with the aim of helping other children at break and lunch to have a successful break. This week, they learnt how to do 'Cat's Cradle' to play with others and had a great time having a go with each other! Why not have a try at home?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpHTPnrYLzQ>

Did you know that we now have Play Pod competitions at lunch times? The equipment supplied by the Wiltshire Scrapstore in Lacock, is designed to keep children active over break as well as to nurture their creativity. So far this term, themes that the children have requested have ranged from Pokemon and Disney to transport and animals. Keep an eye out for certificates coming home to celebrate the most creative designs.

Year 5 have had a fantastic start to their year! We started off our PSHE lessons by looking at collaboration, and how we can be good teammates. We built towers out of newspaper to practise this skill.

We've really enjoyed getting stuck in to our enquiry question, 'How did political, religious and cultural changes affect life after 1066?'. The children were fascinated by the Black Death! We then had a look at the feudal system and the role of the knight.

We created information texts all about the Black Death, using subheadings.

Across the school, we have been celebrating Black History Month by learning about a range of significant historical and modern day figures, including Mary Seacole, Nicola Adams and Ade Adepitan. We have also been learning about black artists such as Jacob Lawrence. We have taken inspiration from his artwork to create our own artwork that represents us.

We have had a fantastic stay
enjoying our geography top
loved writing letters to Rusl
sent them in the post last w
back from him.

Our next adventure is Kilve
about!

Year 4 have had a fantastic first term and have achieved so much already!

We have been reading 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' which has inspired the children to write a letter, as if they were Harry themselves, to his Uncle Vernon and Aunt Petunia, to try to persuade them to treat him more reasonably! The children have also very much enjoyed writing some wonderful 'portal' stories. They particularly loved the opportunity to use their imaginations to describe the portal itself as well as the intriguing world beyond!

Our main focus in maths this year is learning thoroughly all the times tables to twelve times twelve so that we can recall the facts automatically. The children have worked really hard on this already, revising what they learned previously and making good progress towards learning all the facts. In maths lessons, Year 4 have been busy developing their knowledge of the place value of numbers to ten thousand. They have also started to extend their understanding of addition and subtraction.

In history the children have enjoyed learning about the end of the Roman Empire in Britain and the invasions of the Anglo-Saxons.

In science they have enjoyed developing their knowledge about sound. They have loved the opportunities to apply their learning and deepen their understanding about how sound travels using musical instruments.

In computing the children learned about the World Wide Web and the internet.

Well done Year 4!

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the school year!

We have enjoyed learning about all about inspirational people throughout recent History and how they have had a positive impact on the world.

We read the inspiring story of Greta and the Giants and innovated the story to create our very own narrative, which we read to the children in Reception at their story time.

In Maths we have built upon and applied our knowledge of place value from Year 1 and continued our practice of counting in 2's, 5's and 10's.

Over the term the children have been fascinated by learning about animals including humans. We have focused on lifecycles and offspring – can they tell you which offspring belongs to which animal? The children shared photos of themselves as babies and toddlers and discussed how they have change...and how they might continue to change as they get older. We have also had some creepy crawly friends in class – the children have learnt about the life cycle of a butterfly first hand...

We have had a brilliant start to the school year, children settled in very well to the routines of their reading lessons and are familiar with the sessions and adults. We can clearly see the impact of families reading regularly with their child – please keep up the brilliant effort!

Thank you to all those who came to the Reception Parents RWI phonics workshop this term. Look out for a future date where we will look in more detail at the storybooks.

Please do access the portal for parents as there are some useful videos, tips and ideas to support your child with reading - <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents/>

And finally, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed Friday Family Reading sessions this term; watch this space for when we will be inviting other year groups too!

into the cost of the school c
haven't had a chance yet, p
So far the majority who cor
school affordable - if this is
respond so that we are abl
whole school community.

All pupils have made a great start to their music learning this term. As we are without a music room for a short while, the children have been great at adapting to having their music lessons in their classroom. As well as starting with our weekly body percussion to get us moving, many classes have enjoyed developing their listening and appraising skills. We have also linked in with Black History Month listening to music by composers such as Florence Price and Ben E King. Year 6 have also enjoyed performing a riff along to James Brown's 'I Feel Good.'

Year 3 and 4 have started their First Access Musical journey with all of year 3 learning the recorder and year 4 the ukulele. It's also

all of year 3 learning the recorder and year 4 the ukulele. It's also great to see some of the TA's joining in with this as well.

Singing is a positive feature throughout the music lessons and the children enjoy this aspect-with many continuing with their amazing singing in the 'Young Voices' Club and Singing Assembly.

Peripatetic Music lessons continue to thrive at school, and this term, we are trying to encourage more pupils to perform in assembly. This week, Tabitha in Fruit Bats performed 'Our Detective Agency' confidently to the whole school. A great term of music learning has had by all. I am looking forward to next term already.



Each class voted for their S earlier this term. All children then present it to their class person that they felt would be the representatives this year.

Year 2 - Lily and Emilia

Year 3 - Deivid and Matilda

Year 4 - Kamilla and Hamis

Year 5 - Sophie and Evie

Year 6 - Khyan and Leila

We asked some of the children who were elected how they feel about it:

I am excited to be on The School Parliament because it means I can find out about how the school works. I am learning things I did not know before. **Kamilla-Year 4**

I am pleased to be on School Parliament because I love doing PE and I am hoping that I can learn how to get more equipment that the children want. **Sophia-Y5**

I want to help be part of a team to make the school an even better place. **Matilda -Y3**

I would love to fundraise and be able to get some more school pets. **Evie - Y5.**

We wanted to be part of The School Parliament because we think it is important to be kind. We want to help other children in the school. **Emilia and Lily-Y2**

It has always been my dream to be on school parliament and to be voted by my class. I also wanted to be able to go to Trowbridge Youth Parliament to be able to share ideas from the school (and eat cookies). **Khyan-Y6**

Our attendance for the year
below the national average

Year group attendance to date is as follows (*Resource Base children are included within year groups*):

Year R - 92%

Year 1 - 94.3%

Year 2 - 96.7%

Year 3 - 94.3%

Year 4 - 96.4%

Year 5 - 92.1%

Year 6 - 93.1%

Many of you have been taken
last month - I hope you've taken
the leader board are as follows

Walwayne Court - 191 820

The Mead - 183 540 points

Bellefield - 118 360 points

Paxcroft - 90 550 points

Holbrook - 87 990 points

The Grove - 83 410 points

St John's - 63 310 points

North Bradley - 62 370 poi

Castle Mead - 60 740 poir

There is only a little over a
up that leader board to fini

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