Castlefort Academy – Newsletter

Monday 2nd November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half-term break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with friends and family. We are looking forward to another exciting and productive half term at Castlefort, filled with opportunities for learning, personal development and lots of exciting events along the way!

We have plenty of news and important dates to share with you as we head towards the festive season, so please take a few moments to read through this week's newsletter.

A Spooktacular End to Last Half Term!

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting our Halloween Disco and 'Decorate a Pumpkin Competition' before we broke up for half term. The children looked absolutely incredible in their spooky outfits, and the pumpkin designs were, once again, truly amazing! We were so impressed by the creativity, imagination and effort that had gone into every entry. A special thank you also goes to our School Council, who took on the very important responsibility of helping to choose our competition winners. We really appreciate their time and thoughtful decisions!

Wednesday 4th November – Book Fayre and Parents' Evening

Wednesday is going to be a busy and exciting day at Castlefort, as we welcome our wonderful annual Book Fayre alongside our Parents' Evening. Thank you to everyone who has already booked their appointment slots using our new Arbor app. We really appreciate your support as we continue to make the most of the system.

All children will have the opportunity to browse and purchase books during the school day on Wednesday. If you would like your child to purchase a book, please send any money into school in the labelled envelope which will be provided. We hope the children enjoy exploring the wonderful selection of books on offer!

A few important reminders about Wednesday:

- School will close promptly at 2:00pm.
- Our Open Evening will begin at 2:30pm.
- Please remember to visit our Book Fayre and take the opportunity to browse the wonderful selection of books available.

If you have not yet managed to book an appointment to speak with your child's teacher, please don't worry. Simply contact the school office and a member of our team will arrange for a telephone call home from your child's teacher, should all the time slots be already taken in your year group on the evening.

Important Update – School Communications

As we enter our second year as an academy, we will be making greater use of the Arbor app to support communication between home and school.

We have now moved away from using Piota to send letters and notifications. From now on, we are able to send letters directly to parents and carers via email instead using the information stored on Arbor.

If you still have the Piota app installed, purely for receiving Castlefort messages, we would advise that you delete the app at a time convenient to you. Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to develop and improve the ways in which we communicate with our families.

Thursday 5th November – Forest Den Building Adventure!

We are excited to announce that on Thursday 5th November, Castlefort will be hosting a special den-building activity in our forest area for children in Years 1–6.

Pupils will have the opportunity to work collaboratively, develop their teamwork skills and use their creativity to build their very own dens. As this activity will involve getting outdoors and potentially getting a little muddy, children will need to bring the following items:

- A change of old clothes.
- A pair of gloves.
- Old trainers.

Please ensure that all items are placed inside a **labelled carrier bag** and brought into school on Thursday morning. Of course, no forest adventure would be complete without a little treat! Following the activity, the children will be able to enjoy some delicious hot chocolate with marshmallows and cookies. We kindly ask for a voluntary contribution of **£1 per child** to help cover the costs of the activity and refreshments. We are looking forward to another fantastic outdoor learning experience!

Christmas Fayre Preparations

Our preparations for the Christmas Fayre are beginning to gather pace! Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who has already sent in their pre-loved teddy bears. Your generosity is very much appreciated, and we are so grateful for your continued support. We will also be contacting parents and carers during November who signed up to Friends of Castlefort at the beginning of term. We are looking forward to working together to get everything ready for what we hope will be a wonderful Christmas Fayre.

Donations Appeal

A gentle reminder that we are appealing for donations of **cosmetics and toiletries this Friday**. Any contributions would be gratefully received and will help us with our Christmas Fayre preparations.

We are also beginning to collate prizes for our Christmas Raffle! If you know of any local businesses or organisations that may be willing to donate a prize, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with the school office if you are able to help or can put us in contact with someone who might.

Every donation, no matter how big or small, makes a big difference. Thank you for helping us make our Christmas Fayre a special occasion for the whole Castlefort community.

Wishing everyone a happy, positive and successful start to the new half term!

Mr Hawkins

Headteacher

Castlefort Academy

CASTLEFORT ACADEMY

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DEN BUILDING

Thursday 5th November

Pupils in Years 1–6 will be taking part in a den building activity!



Change of clothes required

Please bring a change of clothes in a carrier bag (for Years 1–6).



What to bring

- Warm clothes
- Old trainers
- Gloves



A treat!

Children will receive a hot chocolate and a cookie.

£1

Voluntary contribution

£1 per child (cash) please.



Get cosy, get creative and build your den!

We can't wait to see what you build!

CASTLEFORT ACADEMY

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Christmas Fayre

We need your help!

We're asking for donations from our parents and carers to help make our Christmas Fayre a huge success!



Teddy Bear collection — Friday 23rd October



Cosmetics and toiletries — Friday 6th November



Chocolate donations — Friday 20th November



Bottle tombola — Friday 27th November



Cake donations — Thursday 3rd December

The Christmas Fayre will take place on

Friday 4th December

Thank you for your support!