

Castle Primary School



Summer 2024

A message from Steve Morton

I can't believe it's this time of year again so soon! What a marvellous year we have all had here at Castle Primary School. The summer term is always a whirlwind of busy and exciting activities, trips and school-based events. Thank you to everyone who has been able to join us to support the children in all their endeavours. As always, we strive to offer the children a diet of educational experiences that enhance and enrich their curriculum. We see each experience as an opportunity to feed into each child's wider experiences of the world as well as to offer real-life experiences linked to their curriculum. We appreciate that the current economic climate brings with it challenges for all families and we have looked to maximise every contribution to our trips to ensure the children get the most out of everything we have offered. As I look back over the experiences this year, I am astounded as to how we managed to fit it all in! Here are just a few of the trips this year: Fleet Air Arm, Longleat Wildlife Park, Weymouth Sealife Centre, Bristol Aquarium, ROAM and our Year 6 Bristol Residential.



Thank you to all the members of FoCS for helping to coordinate and fundraise throughout the school year. It is through your support that so many of these events are made more accessible to all families. You are all amazing!

We also look to bring experiences into school for the children too. These have ranged from talks from firefighters and vets to local and famous authors. The children have participated in a judging panel for a national shortlisting for new books for children. They have competed in, and won, a regional bake-off held between local schools and held our own, in-school version run by two of our fantastic Year 5 students. They have learnt to ride their bikes safely through Bikeability and have even met a duckling and a gosling! All in all, we have loved teaching your children and we are grateful that you share their learning and development with us every day. To our Year 6 children, we are so very proud of you for all your achievements and your growth as learners towards becoming young adults. If you multiply the above activities over 7 years and add in all the daily experiences and lessons that you have devoured over your time with us, then it becomes clear why you leave Castle Primary School so ready and prepared for the wider world. We know that you will make the right choices, be a voice for positive change, and make our world a better place because you are in it just being you! We will miss you all very much. We also say a big thank you to Mrs Gosney who has decided to hand over lunch duty and leading our after-school care. We are very grateful for everything that you have done for our children over the years. From September Mrs Newman will lead our after-school provision. Finally, to you all. Thank you for making me smile each and every day as you greet me at the gates. You brighten up the greyest of skies with your beaming smiles. Have an amazing break. Do marvellous things and come back to us safe and sound in September, ready for our next adventure together.

The Photo of the Week



Bake - off winners



Cabot Learning Federation

This school is part of the Cabot Learning Federation, a Multi Academy Trust in South West England.

Dates for your Diary

- 2nd and 3rd Sept: Inset days
- 4th Sept: First day of term

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Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at Castle Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Lead (DSL) and contact at School is Laura Liddell and our Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Steve Morton and Claire Dutson (Nursery)

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at:
www.castleprimaryschool.com/759/safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website – please follow [this link](#) to help keep your child safe

Attendance Breakdown:

Drogo Class 1– 94.73%

Corfe - 95.62%

Totnes - 95.19%

Dunster - 95.57%

Tintagel – 90.00%

Whole school - 94.19%

Drogo

It's been a fantastic term and the time has really flown! The Reception children have really grown in confidence over the last couple of months. They have enjoyed learning the stories of The Three Little Pigs and Jack and the Beanstalk, confidently acting them out with the small world resources and changing the stories to make up new versions.

In phonics, everyone is doing brilliantly with their reading and lots of the children are starting to write independently too! We have also enjoyed finding out about life cycles, learning about dinosaurs, exploring space and planting seeds.

In Year One, the children have been very busy in their Discovery lessons. They have learnt about different materials, made pop up books, found out about plants and had fun making their characters talk on the iPads using the Scratch program.

The Year One children are becoming confident readers and writers and are loving the maths lessons. They proved to be particularly amazing at working out different amounts of money using the coins and notes!

We all enjoyed a great day out at ROAM in June. This was definitely a highlight of the year and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying the outside space, playing and learning together and developing their resilience. Sports Day was also a huge success and the children all rose to the challenge of taking part in the different activities.

It's with great sadness that I say goodbye to Drogo Class, but I know they will go on to achieve wonderful things as they move into Corfe next year. Well done everyone - it's been a pleasure to teach you!



Corfe

As we come to the end of another school year, we would like to thank all the parents of Corfe Class for their support this year. From labelling jumpers, sending in bean tin cans, checking out our Seesaw posts and sending the children ready to be in the best place they can be to learn each day.

We have seen huge progress from everyone, and we have loved being part of their journey over the last 2 years. We hope they continue with their positivity, resilience and love for learning as they go into Key Stage 2. A huge thank you to our amazing team, Ms Dodge, Mrs Newman, Ms Dunn and Mrs Middleton for being such a supportive role for us all.

The end of term has continued to be full of learning opportunities. In Maths, we have been reviewing our year. We have been really impressed with how much they have remembered and how they are able to use these skills in context.

Writing is an area we have worked so hard on to build confidence and a love of writing. The children have produced a huge range of genre this half term ranging from information reports, instructions, narrative and poetry. They have been so proud of what they can now achieve. We always enjoy looking back to September in our books to see just how far we have come.

We concluded our Discovery with a great trip to the Fleet Air Arm Museum. We have really enjoyed being Historians. It is always hard to top the Great Fire of London topic, but we have fully immersed ourselves into the worlds of The Montgolfier Brothers, Otto the flying man, The Wright Brothers, Amy Johnson and Amelia Earhart.

In Science, we have been exploring plants and have enjoyed creating our own wildflower and herb gardens. We also dissected a seed and learnt some very technical vocabulary for the different parts. In Art, we made some amazing sea creature 3D sculptures.

We enjoyed a fantastic drama workshop led by Mr Morgan from Stanchester School and a youth leader tennis coaching session. All great opportunities for developing the Arts and Sports. We have been really impressed with the number of Corfe children who take part in out of school activities ranging from football, rugby, martial arts, sea cadets, country dancing and panto performances. Such a talented bunch!

We hope you all enjoyed joining us at Sports Day and that you all received your end of year report. They were a pleasure to write and to share the successes of your children. Next week we look forward to our dressing up flight day, a Yr 6 leavers performance, the traditional bring your own games day and Montacute Day.

We wish you all a lovely summer holiday. Please do try and keep reading over the 6 weeks. The summer reading challenge is a great way to do this, and we can assure you, all your children would appreciate a library visit as they all love a good book.

Mrs Downes and Mrs Seaby



Totnes

What a fabulous last term we have had in Totnes! We have covered all sorts of things within the class and have been eager and engaged even when heading to the last week! They have been amazing this term and are deserving of a break!

In English we first looked at 'The Barnabas project' by The Fan Brothers, where we looked at describing and writing about our own monsters and creating leaflets that look at a new toy shop that has opened. We talked about our feelings through this book and looked in depth about friendship! We have then moved onto to sailing The Seven Seas where we have joined Ernest Shackleton and his 27 crew members on the adventure of a lifetime! We have learnt the perilous journey they had to take and have been building up to writing a newspaper article about the expedition they took.

In Maths we have bounced through topics and shown great resilience when we have been struggling. Year 4 have had some wonderful Multiplication check results, and we are so incredibly proud of each of them! Year 4 have covered Fractions, Decimals, Time, Money and Statistic. They have shown true strength and has faced every unit with the greatest attitude. Year 3 have covered Fractions, Mass and capacity, Money and time! They have engaged and enjoyed all lessons even if they have found them difficult. I look forward to seeing how they progress into next year!

Our discovery units for this term have been Science and History. In Science, we have looked at living things and their habitats – analysing how creatures, critters, creepy crawlies and everything in between adapt to their surroundings and the features of environments they live in. The highlight of this unit was surely our trip to Weymouth Sea Life Centre, where students had hands-on (literally!) experience with underwater animals and learned all about the symbiotic relationship between the sea and those who live in it.

In History, we looked far, far back at the lives and civilisation of the Mayas. We had the chance to analyse the many aspects of Maya life, such as the crops they found precious to them, the pastimes they partook in and the rulers that oversaw the way their world worked, such as Pakal the Great. A notable feature of **this terms'** studies was a visit from Stanchester Drama Team, comprised of the fantastic Mr Morgan and a troupe of helpful Year 7 and 8s. Totnes partook in a session filled with dramatic reenactments of Maya life, tales, myths and legends.

This has been a fantastic year for myself, and Totnes and I want to thank them for being a wonderful class who I am incredibly proud of! Thank you, Totnes, for making my first year as a teacher a brilliant one I will never forget! Have a wonderful break- you all deserve it.

Mrs Hopgood & Mrs Salter.



Dunster



Well, here we are at the end of another wonderful year at Castle. It's been a truly fantastic year with your curious, creative, inquisitive and thoughtful children.

This school year has flown by. It feels like only yesterday the class was coming back together after spending a year apart following their split in year 4, and they really have bonded well. We've grown from a class of 22 to 25, and our newest classmates have truly become part of the Castle school family. Thank you for choosing our school!

Over the past few weeks, the children have been busy perfecting their writing skills. They've been working incredibly hard to add cohesive devices to their writing, bringing together all the grammatical skills they've learned in year 5, and ensuring they're writing cursorily. There were lots of grumbles at first, but now I have a class of very proud cursive writers, and rightly so!

In Maths, this term was all about Geometry. Measuring and calculating angles was no trouble for Dunster class, who really took some quite challenging learning in stride.

In Discovery, we've been exploring the Maya Civilization, which the class has found very interesting. We even had a whole class debate about whether they'd want a Mayan Priest telling them what to do! There are some real rebels in our class, let me tell you!

I know I say this often, but I really mean it; your children are just wonderful and teaching them is such a privilege, I really am delighted to take the class into year 6 next year. We will have a nice new classroom too, how exciting!

Thank you so much for all your support this year—bringing in cakes for sales, sending in all the random bits and bobs we need for our DT or Art units, sending in tadpoles (!), replying to letters and messages on See-saw, and coming to parents' evenings. It all makes such a difference.

Goodbye Dunster 23/24, hello Tintage! 24/25!

Have a fabulous summer, stay safe and we will see you in September!

Mrs Abbott and Miss Gurney



Tintagel

I'm not sure how it is possible, but here we are at the end of the school year, and for our wonderful Year 6s, the end of their final year with us here at Castle Primary School. It has been an absolute joy to teach Tintagel Class this year, and it will certainly seem strange without them in September!

We have packed an awful lot in to the last term. Once we got the SATs out of the way, we turned our attention to writing in a range of genres, with the traditional tale of Rumpelstiltskin as our inspiration. We looked back at the original tale from the Brothers Grimm, and really delved into the darkness of this fairy tale character. We also considered whether Rumpelstiltskin may just be misunderstood, and maybe the real villain of the story is someone else entirely. It was great fun writing poetry, character descriptions and balanced arguments with all of this in mind.

In Maths, we have been preparing for Key Stage 3 with a bit of Algebra. The children have worked really hard, and are now finally starting to 'get' how using letters from the alphabet can help us with problem solving and finding all possible outcomes.

This term marked the return of a popular Year 6 event, the Enterprise Project. The children formed four small businesses with their peers: Delicious Delights, Summer Sundaes, Hamdon Jewellery and Fruity Freeze. After conducting market research and developing their ideas for a product to sell, they pitched their ideas to some local professionals in true Dragons' Den style! Luckily, they all were successful in securing investment for their ideas, and hopefully you were able to sample some of their wares at the FOCS Summer Fayre this week!

Tintagel also went 'on tour' this term, heading the Longleat for a day of animal encounters and safari fun, before heading off to Bristol on residential. We packed an awful lot in to three days, including:

- Orienteering and learning about life (and death!) in the Victorian times at Arnos Vale Cemetery
- Pirate storytelling walk around the Harbourside
- A guided tour of Bristol Aquarium
- An all-you-can-eat experience at Za Za Bazaar
- Exploring Bristol Museum, with particular attention going to the extensive collection of taxidermy!
- Paddling in the Millennium Square fountains
- Scaling the heights of Cabot Tower to marvel at the view of the city.
- A trip to the SS Great Britain, a great, interactive museum on board ship.
- A voyage on The Matthew, a replica of the ship John Cabot used to sail across the Atlantic to Newfoundland in 1497.

More recently, we have taken part in Greek Week, delving into the history of the Ancient Greeks. We have enjoyed getting to know the gods and goddesses of Mount Olympus, and hearing the stories of Theseus and the Minotaur and Perseus and Medusa! It has also been interesting to discover how many of the things we take for granted today, like maths, science and medicine, our language and even the Olympics, can all be traced back to Ancient Greece.

We have also been putting together our Leavers' Evening performance, which is festival-themed! We hope that you enjoy it, and do feel free to come dressed for the occasion! It has been wonderful looking back on all Tintagel's memories of their time at Castle. They have all grown into amazing young men and women, and we wish them all the best in their undoubtedly bright futures. Have a great summer, and best of luck as you move on to secondary school!

Mr Penn, Mrs Liddell, Ms Counter and Miss Dunn



Nursery

Growing has been our discovery topic this month in Tiny Turrets Nursery. Looking back on this past year in nursery we can all see how much the children have grown into independent, kind, caring characters. The children have loved to explore pictures of themselves from when they were younger in nursery and looking at the differences, they can see in themselves and others. We have found it very fascinating to discover how we grow as humans and what we need to help us all to grow too.

But more than anything the children have adored exploring growing through planting. We have been looking at 2 books throughout this topic, 'The hungry caterpillar' and 'Jack and the bean stalk'. The children were amazed to plant, nurture and grow their very own beanstalks and sunflowers as well as release some home-grown butterflies into the wild. We have been so fortunate to have our own sensory garden in TTN with a dipping pond and sensory flowers growing. The children have loved to explore how the plants grow outside and investigate the dipping pond to find all types of water creatures (no Lock Ness Monster unfortunately). We even harvested some of the flowers and herbs grown in our garden. We used the beautiful flowers and herbs to create homemade dyes to make smelly colourful playdough.

It has been a lovely topic to support the children's understanding of how they are growing and some children are going to school soon. The children have loved thinking about how they will grow into adults and what they might like to be when they grow up. We will spend the last few weeks of this term exploring our feelings around how we change when we grow and say some farewells to the children and Claire. I will also be growing and changing my role to EYFS class teacher at Wincanton. It has been a privilege to work with all our families at TTN and watch all the children grow and develop into the wonderful characters that they are. I would like to take a moment to say thank you to every single member of Castle school community in making me feel apart of this wonderful 'family'. I will never forget my time at Castle primary school and I am so thankful for all the wonderful experiences I have had during my time. I hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday and wish you all the best as we all grow into new classes in the new academic year.



Governance update



My name is Tricia Brabham and I am the Deputy Head of Governance for CLF. Along with my colleagues Liz Tincknell (Head of Governance), Will Lamb (Information Governance Coordinator), and Jackie Friday (Governance Administrator), we work closely with the Trust Board and Academy Councils (the name we give to our Local Governing Boards), on all areas of governance.

Our Academy Councils are made up of volunteers from the local community, as well as parents and staff and they have an important role in providing appropriate challenge and support to the Principal to provide the best educational experience for all students. The Academy Council meets 6 times a year, with the Principal and members of the Senior Leadership Team, in addition individual councillors may link to a particular area of school to be able to provide strategic oversight to the Academy Council on the work taking place in this area. On occasion they may also sit on panels to consider exclusions or complaints.

We have vacancies across our Trust for Academy Councillors - you don't need a background in education, but be willing and able to commit time to the role, to ask questions, and to analyse data. We provide training for our councillors, and they have the support of a clerk and the wider governance team to help them in their role.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role please [complete this form](#) and we will be in touch.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS ON THE HILL



JULY

Wednesday 31st July 10.30am - 12pm
Bumblebee Walk
£6 child / £8 adult.

Booking essential for all events. Please email jasmine.ely@somerset.gov.uk to book your place.

Scan QR code for further event details.



AUGUST

Thursday 1st August 10am - 11.30am
Forest Fun
£6 per child.

Friday 2nd August 10am - 12pm
Devilishly Good Dens
£6 per child.

Wednesday 7th August 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Barmy Bats
£6 per child.

Thursday 8th August 10am - 4pm
Somerset Science: Spies & Secret Agents
£20 per child.

Monday 12th August 1pm - 3pm
Fossil Fun
£6 per child.

Wednesday 14th August 10am - 12pm
Den building & Minibeast hunt
£6 per child.

Friday 16th August 10am - 12pm
Butterfly Walk
£6 per child.

Tuesday 20th August 1pm - 2.30pm
Forest Fun
£6 per child.

Thursday 22nd August 10am - 4pm
Somerset Science: Kaleidacraft
£20 per child.

Friday 30th August 10am - 12pm
Blackberry tie-dying
£6 per child.

