

Castle Primary School



July 2025

A message from Steve Morton



I cannot believe how quickly time has flown by this year. It seems like only yesterday that our new reception children were walking onto the playground for the first time and being guided by their buddies to their new classrooms. How much they have grown. Not just in height but also as young learners.

We faced an unthinkable challenge with the loss of Jake in February. Our children and community came together to offer each other support and comfort. Jake was a ray of pure light and happiness. We will forever remember him in this way. The funds raised over the year in 'bakes for Jake', along with other generous donations, have enabled us to install our beautiful rainbow buddy bench in his memory on our playground.

We would also like to say a 'big' thank you to Mr Mountford and Ms Dunford for their generous donation of a washing machine for the school to use.

It wouldn't be a final newsletter for the summer term without taking a moment to speak about our Year 6 children who will be completing their primary school journey next week. It is funny to think that it was October when they were all wading through the bog up to their waists in mud! For some of the children leaving, their journey began at age 2 years old in Tiny Turrets. As they prepare to transition to secondary school, it's heartening to reflect on the friendships they've forged and the skills they've developed along the way. Each one of them carries a unique story, filled with laughter, challenges, and unforgettable memories that will serve as a foundation for the exciting adventures that lie ahead. As they step into this new chapter, it is crucial to encourage them to embrace change and remain open to new experiences. This next phase promises to be filled with opportunities for growth and discovery, shaping them into the individuals they are destined to become. For some it has been a shorter journey, joining in Reception year or being welcomed into our school during KS1 or KS2. No matter when they have joined us, they have instantly become part of our Castle School family.

So, as we enter the final few days of the summer, we thank you all for your support and engagement over the year and wish you all a restful break. See you in September.

The Photo of the Week



Year 6 leavers



**Cabot
Learning
Federation**

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

Dates for your Diary

- 1st & 2nd Sept: Inset days
- 3rd Sept: First day of term
- 24th Sept– 26th Sept Pinkery

Head of school: Steve Morton

Castle Primary School,
Castle Street, Stoke Sub Hamdon,
Somerset, TA14 6RE
01935 822342

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 Steve Morton and our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Laura Liddell.

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 DDSs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website, please click on the link to find out more.

[Safeguarding - Castle Primary School](#)

Camelot Club

At Castle Primary School we offer thriving wrap-around care in our Camelot Club. The staff, Mrs Middleton, Mrs Newman and Miss Gurney are caring, enthusiastic and professional; the environment is friendly and there is a wide range of interesting activities for children aged 4 to 11 years to enjoy.

Camelot Club breakfast sessions run from 7.45am until 8.45am @ £4.75 where the children enjoy a wholesome breakfast, access a variety of activities and get themselves ready for the day ahead. Children in our Reception through to year 4 are then escorted to their classes while year 5 and 6 pupils take themselves to their classes for a prompt start.

Camelot Club after school provision runs from 15.15 until 17.45. Children can attend short sessions until 16.15, later sessions from 16.15 until 17.45 or full sessions. They are offered a light snack and drink to keep them going until home time. There is plenty to do during these sessions; crafting and lego are always popular, but gardening, outdoor play, playdough and picnics are seasoned favourites too! Children are encouraged to read with an adult and there is plenty of time to get started on homework, with adult support on hand.

After school club has the following sessions:

3.15pm - 4.15pm @ £5

4.15pm - 5.45pm @ £6

3.15pm – 5.45pm @ £7.50

Tax-Free Childcare

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare, this can be used towards **Breakfast club** and **Camelot after school club**.

This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

Castle SEND



24/25 Snapshot

What were we working on and how have we done?

Improving Academy Council support and challenge for SEND

Carolyn Tayler- Webb has been great at providing support and challenge this year by meeting to discuss SEND regularly, joining on monitoring and sharing her input in newsletters.

Evaluating classroom practice and interventions for learners with SEND to maximise impact

This year we have trialed tracking interventions on our school system to monitor outcomes. This, along with observations of class practice and interventions across the year, has helped us tweak and make changes as required. External monitoring of interventions during our SEND review day highlighted that 'targeted interventions were purposeful- planning and recording of delivery was evident and clear evidence of impact observed.'

To create a comprehensive and clear provision map that details the support available at Castle Primary School

A new provision map has been shared with parents and staff and is available on the school website, listing the support available under the 4 broad areas of learning.

Improve Parent/ Carer voice and engagement

PINS SEND coffee mornings were trialed across the year with a blend of online and in-person. Those attending shared they were helpful but there was limited take-up. Next year we plan to run more general coffee mornings where information and support around SEND is available.

To ensure the curriculum is successfully designed and adapted to be ambitious and meet the needs of all learners, increasing their fluency and independence.

CPD and staff training this year has focused on high quality teaching to ensure learning is accessible to all from the point of delivery, and children are equipped to be independent learners. Monitoring has shown improvements across the school in lesson scaffolding and design to ensure greater pupil independence and success. Additionally, pupil voice has highlighted confidence and independence from our learners with SEND. This will continue to be a focus for next year.

Next year our areas of focus will be:

Developing oracy skills to support the needs of all learners

Developing staff identification of need at the earliest stages and supporting through universal Provision to ensure higher outcomes for all children

More details will be shared at the start of next academic year.



Summer Holiday Support

While we all look forward to the summer holidays, the break can also feel very long and daunting, especially if you are a parent of a child with additional needs. Please see the link below to the Community and Inclusion Activities Team's summer calendar of events in Somerset. These activities are available for any child with additional need, and they do not need to be referred into any service to access.

<https://somerseccarers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Clubs-Directory-2425.pdf>

Other upcoming events:

SUMMER YOUTH GROUP

A day of fun and horse centred learning

What can horses hear? How far can they see? What does it mean when they switch their tail? Find out how horses experience the world in this one day interactive workshop

Suitable for young people aged 10 plus

Date: Friday 19th August 2025

Time: Starting at 9am - 4pm

Location: New addition

Price: £10

Activities:

- ✓ Horse Care
- ✓ Relaxation
- ✓ Learning Horse Behaviour
- ✓ Engagement & Fun

01782 787880

www.thehearsaytherapy.com

WE ARE PROUD TO BE RUNNING THE EQUUSCHOLARS PROGRAMME AS PART OF THE HOLIDAY CLUB DAYS

REGISTER NOW

Just Act Natural: *be in nature, be yourself*

For families with a young person with SEND up to 25 years.

Enjoy outdoor nature based activities on the farm.

DAY VISIT

28th July 2025

10am - 3pm

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

www.magdalenfarm.org.uk

Lunch included

£11 pp

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11th - 12th August Sleepover
- 25th August Day Visit
- 20th - 21st Sept Sleepover

Registered charity no. 1060378

OFF ROAD TRAMPER AVAILABLE

My Child at School (MCAS)

At Castle Primary we use a database called Bromcom which holds all student records including contact details. Linked to Bromcom is a system called MyChildAtSchool (or MCAS). This is an app that enables you, as parents/carers, to view information about your child and update both yours and your child's contact details.

On MCAS, you can view your child's details and contact information, attendance, school communication and other information such as announcements. You can also message the school from the app.

As we start using additional functions there will be more information for you to view. This App will eventually replace Parentmail, and all bookings and payments for school dinners, breakfast and after school clubs, parents' evenings, trips and much more.

Our school is now going live with MyChildAtSchool. We are encouraging you all to take the time to install the app to your device as this will be the main form of communication, as all letters and correspondence will be sent via the app.

To sign up to use the service you will need to download the app, which is called MyChildAtSchool and is supplied by Bromcom. The app can be found with a simple search in the App store or Google Play. If you do not wish to use the app, you can use the online portal through your web browser instead via the following link: <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>

You can also use the following link to find out more about the app/portal: <https://www.dixonsat.com/uploads/files/dixonsat/External-Shares/MCAS-Parent-Guide.pdf>

If you require any assistance, please contact the school at info@cps.clf.uk or call 01935 822342

Attendance Breakdown:

Drogo-	96.12%	Dunster-	94.98%
Corfe -	95.03%	Tintagel -	94.94%
Totnes -	95.16%		

School total = 95.18%

Drogo



It's so hard to believe that I am now writing the last newsletter for the year. The time has really flown, and the summer holidays are just around the corner. Drogo Class are ending the year on a high! It's been such a busy few weeks, with lots of different activities, but the children have taken everything in their stride. We had a wonderful day at ROAM based on the story of The Gruffulo. Everyone enjoyed all of the activities which included den building, making mud monsters, threading wooden snakes, baking pizzas, toasting marshmallows and enjoying lots of free time in the woods. We were so proud of everyone for their superb behaviour and great attitude - they really were a delight to take on a trip. This was closely followed by Sports Day and it was amazing to see that every single person in the class was prepared to have a go and join in with at least one event - well done!

In class, we have been learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and finding out about the life cycle of plants. Our beans are starting to sprout already! We will also be exploring what is actually above the clouds and finding out about Space and the Planets. Everyone is working so hard in phonics at the moment and it's lovely to see the children starting to read and write independently - it feels as if everything is coming together!

Throughout this half term we have been welcoming the Nursery children in to play and also starting to think about moving into Year One. Drogo Class have been wonderful at helping the younger children to settle in to their new classroom and they are all looking forward to getting to know Mrs Seaby and Mrs Downes as we move into the last weeks of term. It's been a fantastic year and the Drogo Class have grown and matured into confident and enthusiastic learners. We wish them all the best as they move up through the school and will look forward to seeing everyone in September. We hope you have a lovely summer.



Corfe

Time really does fly when you're having fun—and we must have had a *lot* of fun, because it's hard to believe we're already approaching the end of the summer term! This is always a lovely time of year, where we can pause to reflect on all that the children have achieved and learnt. It's been such a pleasure to watch them grow, mature and shine over what feels like such a short space of time. We've had a fantastic year together with a truly wonderful bunch of children. Thank you all for your continued support throughout—it means so much.

One of our recent highlights was our trip to Gore Farm. Despite the weather, the children had an absolutely fabulous day. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about the history of farming, examining machinery from the past and present, and developing their understanding of how farming has changed over the years—and where our food comes from. A big hit was meeting some very fluffy friends as the children had the chance to hold chicks! Their teamwork skills also came to life as they created incredible crowns and castles together. Throughout the day, the children were engaged, respectful and inquisitive—we were all so proud. They even made some lifelong friends with Stuart the farmer and Lucy the chicken!

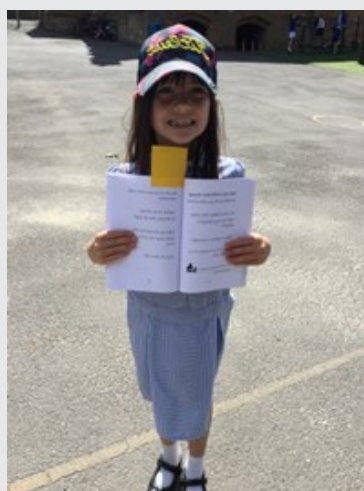
We'd also like to say a big thank you for your engagement with Seesaw over the past year. We've loved sharing snapshots of the children's learning and school life with you, and we always enjoy reading your lovely comments and feedback. It was fantastic to see so many entries for the science competition shared on Seesaw, along with exciting activities the children have been getting up to outside of school!

Forest School has continued to be a highlight of our weekly timetable. A special thank you goes to Mr Penn and Mrs Dodge for always making these sessions so enriching and fun. One lovely afternoon in the sunshine, the children had the chance to lead their own learning through play. We had a café, a full-scale farm complete with crops and livestock, some brilliant dens, and even a little engineering—building a seesaw to experiment with forces and creating a mini Glastonbury Festival!

In D&T this term, we've been learning all about food and nutrition. The children have been developing their skills in chopping, peeling, juicing and knife safety, along with learning about hygiene in the kitchen. They had great fun taste-testing new fruits and designing their own exciting smoothie combinations. The children loved making and drinking their final smoothies and design packaging for their healthy products. Why not give one a try at home over the summer to keep cool and see those kitchen skills in action?

Just one final thank you again for all the support you've given us this year. It's been a joy to teach such a bubbly, fun and creative group of children. Have a fantastic summer—we can't wait to hear all about your adventures when we return in September!

Thank you,
Mrs Downes and Mrs Seaby



Totnes

WOW! What a busy half-term it has been in Totnes.

We kicked it off with a trip to the Tutankhamun exhibition as part of our Ancient Egypt topic which the children started earlier this year. We have since learned about who the ancient Egyptians worshipped, how they communicated, how they mummified their pharaohs and much more. 'Anubis' also visited us to demonstrate part of the mummification ritual. Luckily, all of our organs remained intact! The children have thoroughly enjoyed this topic - it is also one of my favourite topics to teach!

In English, we have been writing diary entries in character, based on Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. We have been learning about all of the features that make an effective diary entry, then using them in our own writing. In a separate unit, we have also produced some fantastic non-chronological reports about invented mythical creatures - The Super Spike, Goriath and Fire Rhino to name but a few.

In computing, we have been programmers. We have been using the coding software Scratch to create simple feedback games drawing on the six main areas of coding: sequence, selection, repetition, variables, input and output. We had a lot of fun testing out the games, subsequently 'debugging' our programs if needed.

Our RE topic has been Islam. We have learned about books, buildings and practices that are important to Muslim people. We have also learned some Arabic words, had a go at writing in a calligraphy style and produced some art based on the traditional geometric patterns associated with Islam. We tessellated shapes to create repetitive patterns.

Throw in a Sports Day (or two!) a much-anticipated day at Montacute House next week, Forest School sessions, Pride Day and weekly swimming lessons, and it makes for a packed but incredibly fulfilling half-term. The children have spent an exciting morning in their new classrooms and met their teacher for next year. I know they will all continue to shine and wish them all the best for their next chapter at Castle.

We wish you all a very happy summer break and look forward to welcoming the children back in September, where we will be welcoming Mrs Newman to the teaching team in Totnes class.

We can't wait to share all of the wonderful reading activities the children will have done as part of our summer reading challenge – happy reading everyone!



Dunster

I can't quite believe that this is the final full week of the school year. We have had a wonderful year together as Dunster Class 2025-26, and it has been a delight to teach each and every one of these young people.

This term, we have fully thrown ourselves into our Ancient Egyptians topic: 'Egypt Unearthed'. We kicked things off with a visit to the Tutankhamun Exhibition in Dorchester, which really helped bring things to life for the children. It was a great day, full of facts and fun! We have mummified a member of the class, who became Rameses VI, the latest pharaoh to be embalmed! We've also mummified some tomatoes, which we will be checking in on before the end of term, to see how the dehydration process has worked! More recently, we have been learning about hieroglyphics and Egyptian gods and goddesses, which has been fascinating.

In English, we have drawn on our Discovery learning to write a narrative version of the diary of Howard Carter, the archaeologist who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb. We've done some drama, and focused on how body language can 'show' us how a character is feeling, rather than 'telling' us. We have also had some fun writing instructions for how to protect a pharaoh's tomb from raiders, and we even wrote a letter in role as a disgruntled organ in the digestive system, complaining to the brain that we were being worked too hard and needed a break!

In Maths, we have been getting to grips with Decimals and Percentages, with the children gaining more and more confidence in switching between these and fractions. We have also been working on our arithmetic skills, which has been really useful practice ahead of Year 6.

More recently, we have been having our SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) sessions. Despite perhaps feeling wary of these, all the children have approached the sessions with great maturity and appropriate levels of curiosity! There have been some really thoughtful questions and it has been a really positive experience for everyone. We have also met our new Reception Class Buddies for September.

Two more days next week. Monday is Montacute Day, where we will spend the day in our House teams. On Tuesday, the last day, we would like to invite children to bring in a (non-electronic) game to share with their friends. They may also bring in a small snack to share when we watch a film in the afternoon. We hope you enjoy the summer break, and will look forward to seeing the children as Year 6s in September!

Tintagel

Class of 2025



As we reach the end of this school year; it truly feels like the end of an era. Our wonderful Year 6 children are ready to spread their wings and take the next big step in their journey—secondary school! We are so proud of each and every one of you. You've grown, learned, laughed, and supported one another through thick and thin. Well done to you all—you are more than ready for what lies ahead.

Our leavers' production was nothing short of fantastic. The singing, the acting, the energy—it was all incredible. Even when emotions were running high, you gave it your all and created a performance we'll never forget. Bravo!

A huge thank you to all the parents who helped organise the leavers' party. What a brilliant celebration it was—full of fun, laughter, and memories that will last a lifetime. Your support and effort made it truly special.

Today, your children will be bringing home all of their books and belongings. Whether they've been part of Castle for 8 years or 8 months, we encourage you to take some time to look through their work and celebrate just how far they've come. Their journey has been remarkable.

To the Class of 2025—you have been amazing. We will miss your smiles, your kindness, and your energy. Keep looking after each other, keep smiling, and always remember to stay positive. You've left a mark on Castle that won't be forgotten.

To the parents of the Class of 2025—well done! Next week might be your last school drop-off at Castle, and we know that brings a mix of emotions. Thank you for your unwavering support over the past year, or two... or for some of you, three! It's been a joy to work with you and your children.

And finally, a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Whitehead for being such an incredible support in Year 6 this year. Your dedication, warmth, and care have made a huge difference. We wish you all the best as you move on to pastures new—you will be so missed!

Well... this is it! Have a wonderful summer and best wishes to you all for the new academic year. Don't forget to come back and tell us all about your new adventures.



Nursery

Wow, the end of the school year is finally upon us.

This final half term we have been very busy travelling around the world for our topic Journeys. We have talked about various ways to travel to Australia, India, France, Scotland, and Cornwall. We have enjoyed finding out about the different cultures and trying different foods for the country. The children have eaten hotdogs, curry, different cheese, and bread, Shortbread biscuits and scones. It has all been very delicious.

We had the opportunity to watch caterpillars grow, build their cocoons and hatch into beautiful butterflies that we released onto the school field. This linked nicely to us acknowledging Butterfly Education and Awareness Day.

During this half term we have celebrated Pride Month, World Oceans Day, and World Music Day which we linked to the places we have visited, and we all learnt to do a simple Indian dance. It has been lovely hearing how caring the children are about their world around them and what we need to do to keep the planet safe.

We would like to thank all our children and parents for their support over this last year and all the changes that we have made improving the nursery and constantly evaluating our provision and striving for the best for our children. It has been a joy to lead the nursery as Manager, a learning curve for myself and I know myself and my team are very proud of all our children.

Finally, we wish our preschool children the best of luck, enjoyment, and happiness as they begin their next step in their learning journey into reception. We will miss you but will enjoy watching you all grow and develop the other side of the door. We are very excited to welcome our nursery children back into a newly decorated nursery in September.

We wish you all a wonderful summer break making memories and having quality time as a family. Enjoy every minute and let's hope the sun continues to shine.

