

Castle Primary School



March 2026

A message from Steve Morton

Happy Easter everyone! The spring term always brings with it so much happiness. There are new blossoms on the trees, flowers popping up from their winter hiding places and lambs leaping around in the fields. It is also the season of changes. The days become longer and hopefully less rainy and the children all seem taller. It is as if daylight and fresh air have boosted their growth!



The spring term also brings with it opportunities for more activities and outdoor learning. The children have been developing our outdoor provision to ensure that everyone has an active and positive lunchtime break. It has been wonderful to see the team games, creative area, music and dance station, dressing-up role play, the sandpit, the reading hut and even limbo! Our new crates have been a spaceship, a castle and even an Airbnb. I do love what the creative mind can conjure up in play.

This term sees the first annual 'Castle's Got Talent' competition. Hosted by Oliver in Year 4 (Castle's answer to Ant or Dec!). Oliver worked hard to create a presentation with help from Robert in Year 6 that set out the whole competition and then presented it to the whole school in assembly. We can't wait to see what talents we all have!

We must not forget my favourite Castle Primary School tradition of the spring term. The Easter bonnet parade. It is always heartwarming to share all the creativity that the children have put into their bonnets and Easter scenes. They are always so proud to parade and they love the adoration from all the village as they walk. Thank you to FoCS for your kind donation of an Easter treat for every child in school.

The children have also continued to grow and develop into courageous advocates. This term we have raised a whopping £141.66 for Comic Relief. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and for your generous donations.

Finally we would like to say a fond farewell to Miss Norris and wish her all the best in her new venture.

Have a wonderful and restful break, everyone, and I look forward to seeing you all in the summer term.

The Photo of the Week



World Book Day—Totnes Class



Cabot
Learning
Federation

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

Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 2nd April - Easter Parade
- Monday 20th April - First day back
- Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday
- W/C 11th May - SATs Week
- Monday 18th May - Tempest Group Photos
- Tuesday 19th May - Yr 6 Longleat Trip

Head of school: Steve Morton

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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 Steve Morton and our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Laura Liddell.

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at:

<https://castleprimaryschool.clf.uk/policy/safeguarding-and-child-protection-policy/>

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 click on the link to find out more.

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 25/26



Mrs Liddell SENCO/ Senior Vice Principal

Student Sensory Survey

Sensory spaces in schools offer students calming and stimulating environments that can significantly enhance learning for everyone. By providing areas where children can self-regulate, decompress, or engage in multi-sensory activities, these spaces reduce stress, improve focus, and support emotional wellbeing.



In school, we have been considering our sensory environment further by asking the children to complete a survey to let us know how we can improve spaces across the school by making them more sensory friendly. We are also keen to develop designated sensory spaces in the school, both in nursery and in main school. All children will benefit from these spaces when a calming space is needed, as well as those with additional sensory needs.

Supporting Transition

With the start of the Summer Term nearly upon us, we will soon be planning and considering transition arrangements for children moving onto secondary school, starting with us from nursery and moving into new classes.



For those in Year 6, we are soon meeting with Stanchester's SENCO and Assistant Head to start transition conversations and planning additional visits for those who may need it. Meetings will also happen with nursery staff, parents, as well as teachers across the school, to ensure children are well prepared as they move into a new year group. Do chat to us across the summer term to share any concerns related to transition so we can support as needed.

Upcoming events and support:

The Community Inclusion Activity Team's Easter calendar is out!

There are plenty of inclusive activities to entertain children with disabilities or additional needs, over the Easter break!

[Inclusion Team's Activity Calendar](#)



The poster features a central yellow brushstroke background with the text 'Activity Calendar' in large, stylized letters. Below it, 'Community Inclusion and Activity Team' and 'Easter Holidays Mon 6 - Fri 17 April' are written in pink. The Somerset Council logo is in the top right. A circular logo with colorful hands is in the top left. Several photos show children participating in activities like swimming, painting, and interacting with a sheep. The bottom is decorated with a field of daisies and bees.

Activity Calendar
Community Inclusion
and Activity Team
Easter Holidays
Mon 6 - Fri 17 April

Somerset Council

For ALL children and young people in Somerset with a disability or additional needs
*You DO NOT have to be referred to any service to access these activities, unless otherwise stated.

Attendance Breakdown:

Drogo -	95.79%	Dunster -	92.95%
Corfe -	95.93%	Tintagel -	95.88%
Totnes -	94.97%		

School total = 95.08%

Drogo



It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of this term. It's been such a busy few weeks and the time has flown by. In Drogo Class, the children have been learning the story of "Goldilocks". We started off by having breakfast with Baby Bear and then we enjoyed acting out the story in small groups. It was wonderful to see everyone taking part and confidently performing in front of their peers. This week we have had fun changing the characters and the events to make up our own versions - we particularly enjoyed Goldilocks and the Three Horses!

The lovely weather over the last couple of weeks has finally enabled us to be able to get outside. The children have been exploring maths concepts on a big scale - playing snakes and ladders and target games to practise their subitising and counting. We've also been working on our team building skills and having lots of fun making huge car tracks and obstacle courses!

World Book Day is always a highlight of the Spring Term. It was a huge success again this year and Drogo Class fully immersed themselves in the day, with wonderful costumes and fantastic books. We managed to read lots of them all during the day and loved having the opportunity to experience so many different stories. Many thanks to our Mystery Reader who added an extra level of excitement and intrigue!

The term will be ending with the traditional Easter Hat Parade. This is always such a wonderful community event, and we can't wait to see all of the wonderful creations. Thank you all for your support during the last few weeks. Have a lovely Easter and we'll see you all back for the Summer Term very soon!



Corfe

We can hardly believe we are coming to the end of the Spring term. Time really does fly by, and Corfe Class have certainly found their wings in so many areas of their learning. We are very proud of them all and the progress they have all made individually and as a class.

Our History hats have gone back on, and we have been enjoying finding out about toys from the past. It was lovely to hear about the conversations the children had with their grandparents about the toys they used to play with. Thank you so much to Mrs Newman who brought in some amazing toys for us to explore. We look forward to welcoming you to our museum on Monday 30th March from 2.30pm, details are on Seesaw.

A passion for writing is really starting to take off now in Corfe. Motivation and resilience are beginning to be discovered, and Corfe Class are beginning to see themselves as writers. It was great to be able to show all this hard work off at parent's evening and to see the huge jumps that have been made since September. Traction Man has inspired some great writing. We considered our use of adjectives and verbs to create a new scene for the story. After developing a tiger villain within a jungle setting, we were able to craft our sentences to create some super descriptive paragraphs. Thank you for all the amazing loom boxes the children created at home. We were able to use these to perfect our weaving skills.

We have enjoyed PE sessions with Drogo class. It is lovely to see Corfe engaging with and supporting the youngest members of our school. Forest School has been fun, and we have been lucky to have our time with ROAM. We have roasted marshmallows and starbursts, made dens and designed hedgehog houses. We now look towards the summer term and all the new learning opportunities heading our way.

Have a lovely Easter holiday.



Totnes

This term has flown by, and we have certainly managed to pack a lot in in Totnes class!



In English, we have produced some amazing writing linked to 'Leon and the Place Between' – a story we read last term. We invented our own circuses and then created leaflets to persuade people to visit them, telling them about the main attractions, where to eat and how to get there. We have also been learning about William Shakespeare as part of Shakespeare Week and we have read a child-friendly version of Macbeth, learning about the main characters and events. We wrote our own narratives to tell the story and used some fantastic descriptive language in the process.

In our Discovery lessons, we have enjoyed learning about the different types of biome and how these vary across the world. We then focussed in on the unique 'Mediterranean' biome, looking at where the Mediterranean is, what countries make up the region and the main physical and human features of it. We then zoomed in further, looking at the east coast of Spain and how that compares to a region closer to us: the Jurassic Coast.

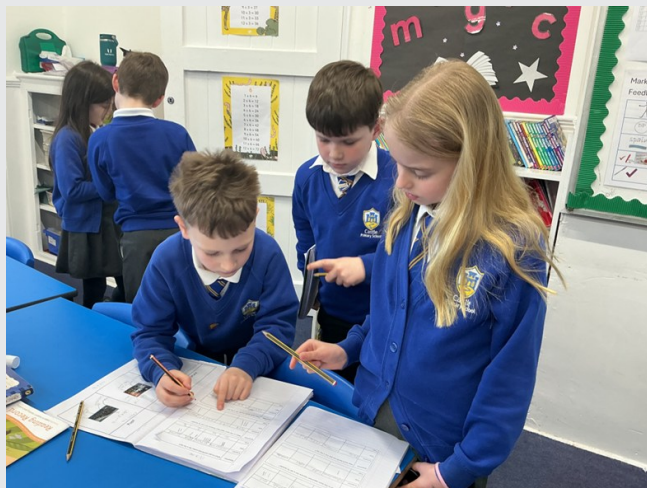
In DT, we have been learning about the history of cars, and how their design and features have changed over the years. We also conducted some market research, asking our peers what features they would like best in a car. We then looked at some simple slingshot cars and used some of the ideas to inspire our own designs. We are going to make these in class next week!

We have continued to enjoy our Spanish lessons, learning about parts of the body, simple classroom instructions and most recently, colours. We have immensely enjoyed our Forest School sessions with ROAM, making the most of the dry weather off-site in Jubilee Woods and also in our school grounds. Making s'mores has been a particular highlight!

Thank you for your continued support, especially with encouraging your child to read at home consistently. We are finding a little bit of time almost daily to enjoy some independent reading or our class reader, 'The Witches'. Please continue to log children's reading at home in their reading records.

Throw in a World Book Day, Comic Relief, our very own Castle's Got Talent show and an Easter Parade and it's safe to say it's been a very busy term! We wish you a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing you when we return on **Monday 20th April**.

Totnes Team



Dunster

It's been a busy Term 4 in Dunster Class! A real highlight was World Book Day, where the class costumes were really fab! We also welcomed Mrs Theobald in as our Mystery Reader – the children had lots of fun guessing who it might be from the clues. Huge thanks to Mrs Theobald for giving up her time to join us! There has also been lots of great learning this term... here's a taste of what we've been up to...

In English, we have been using *Wild Journey*, a collection of short stories by A.M. Dassu. The stories are set in Egypt, Morocco, Spain, France and England, following the trail of a starling migration. Each of the stories is very different, but in each one the main character learns something important. We are now on the verge of writing our own 'sixth story' to add to the collection, mimicking the same style and story structure. We are looking forward to reading everyone's creations next week!

We have also been looking at free verse poetry. The children have loved creating their own poetry without any rules! We've focused on different features such as similes, metaphors, repetition and alliteration. It has been lovely to see the children really engaging with their creative sides and this includes performing their poems. It has been great to look at some inspirational poets such as Benjamin Zephaniah, and Michael Rosen.

In Guided Reading, we have had an in-depth look at *Wild Journey*, as well as considering the language of opinion when considering the question 'should children be allowed on social media?' in debate week. More recently, we have been celebrating Shakespeare Week, finding out about two of Shakespeare's 'Leading Ladies', Titania from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Juliet from *Romeo & Juliet*. We have considered how unusual it was for Shakespeare to have written such strong women in a time when women did not have a lot of power, and how these female characters would have been played by men, as women were not allowed to be actresses. While Year 5 were off enjoying their Wow Day at Stanchester, Year 4 joined forces with their Totnes counterparts for the day to do a deep dive into *Macbeth*. It was great to see the children so engaged with all the mystery, murder, witchcraft and treachery in this play.

In Maths, both Year 4 and Year 5 have been thinking about fractions and decimals. It has been encouraging to see some 'lightbulb moments' in recent lessons, as children are beginning to make links and understanding is clicking into place. All the children have shown great resilience in tackling this tricky set of mathematical concepts.

In Discovery, we have been finding out about global biomes, areas with common climate, weather systems and vegetation etc. We then zoomed in to think about one of the rarest biomes: the Mediterranean biome. This is found in five places across the world, but primarily in the areas surrounding the Mediterranean Sea (obviously!). We found out about how plants and animals have adapted to be heat- and drought-resistant in these areas, and how humans have managed to live, work and holiday there!

In Forest School, we have ventured off-site to Jubilee Woods, and it's been wonderful to see the children engaging and connecting with the environment. We have had den-building, tree-climbing, nesting, Star Wars-reenacting and so much more! A lot of teamwork and collaboration, as well as a chance to let off some steam and just enjoy being outdoors, especially as the Spring weather improves! The last session before Easter is on Wednesday 1st April – fingers crossed for sunshine...
It was great to see so many of you at our Parents' Evenings last week. The children have been working very hard, and it is always great to share their successes with you.



Dunster continued..

As you know, next week we will be saying a sad goodbye to Miss Norris. The Dunster Team would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Norris for all she has done this year, and for her hard work and dedication to the children. We wish her all the best for her next adventure – she will be sorely missed. As you will have read earlier this week, we have been successful in finding a replacement teacher for Thursdays and Fridays from after Easter. Mrs Thompsett is very excited to be joining us, and will be popping in on Tuesday next week to meet the children and introduce herself properly before we break up for the holidays.

Thank you for your continuing support, and have a great Easter break when it arrives!

Team Dunster ☐



Tintagel

What an incredible Spring Term it has been in Tintagel Class. Year 6 have been working exceptionally hard and tackling some of the most challenging objectives in the curriculum. From algebra in maths to the subjunctive mood in English, they have had a lot on their plates—but they have handled everything with an impressive attitude.

In English, we have been diving into the powerful and thought-provoking book *The Island* by Armin Greder. The children have been captivated by its themes and have used the text as a springboard for developing their persuasive writing and character analysis skills.

Throughout the unit, we have been focusing on; composition and structure, thinking carefully about writing for a specific audience, refining their vocabulary choices to create impact and deepening their understanding of viewpoint and motive.

Handwriting continues to be a whole-school focus, and we regularly remind pupils to check spellings using dictionaries and classroom resources before calling out, "How do I spell xyz?" Many are becoming far more independent with this.

As mentioned earlier, maths has been full of challenge this term! Year 6 have been bravely tackling ratio, proportion, and algebra. It hasn't always been smooth sailing, but they are becoming increasingly confident, resilient mathematicians who are not afraid to take risks and learn from mistakes.

A little reminder:

The more Times Table Rock Stars they can do at home, the better!

Having rapid recall of multiplication facts makes so many areas of maths easier, so any extra practice is hugely appreciated.

In Discovery, we have been exploring the incredible country of Costa Rica—a topic the children have absolutely loved! They have investigated: population density, climate zones and physical and human geography. This has linked beautifully with our science work on evolution and inheritance, allowing the children to make meaningful cross-curricular connections. Both subjects continue to be real favourites in Tintagel Class, and we are all hugely excited for our upcoming trip to Longleat, where pupils will have the chance to see some of the animals they've been studying in real life—or IRL, as they would say!

There's no hiding from the fact that once we return after Easter, the children will move into full revision mode ahead of their SATs. These will take place on:

Monday 11th May, Tuesday 12th May, Wednesday 13th May, Thursday 14th May.

More information on SATs breakfast club will come out shortly.

After SATs, we will shift our focus to creative writing, enrichment activities, and of course, all the exciting Year 6 traditions—Longleat, leavers' events, and transition to secondary school.

Year 6 will also be completing their Enterprise Projects in the summer term. We are looking for four local business people to join us as our 'Dragons', giving the children the chance to pitch their business ideas and (hopefully!) secure an investment, kindly funded by FoCS.

If you—or someone you know—would be happy to take part, please let us know as soon as possible. Okay, nothing left to do now but enjoy a well-earned Easter break! We can't wait to see everyone back, refreshed and ready for an exciting Summer Term, on April 20th.

Mrs Abbott and Mrs Middleton

Tintagel continued..



Nursery

This half term in Nursery, we have been exploring our topic "Healthy Me." The children have enjoyed learning about healthy and unhealthy foods, talking about germs, and understanding why washing our hands is so important. We've also been very busy in the kitchen, making fruit salad, soup and bread, banana bread, and egg and carrot muffins—all of which the children loved preparing and tasting. Alongside this, we have been developing our rhyming skills, and as the weather has improved, we've spent lots of time outdoors.

The children have been challenging and strengthening their physical skills by exploring and practising on the Trim Trail, as well as helping to enhance our outdoor area. We wish all our families a wonderful Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the summer term where our new topic will be "Growing."



FOCS

Thank you to everyone for all your support to FoCS so far this year. We had some great success with the Christmas fundraising events, including the festive wreath workshop, sparkle disco, nativity raffles and of course this year's fabulous Christmas Fayre with its brilliant full village turn out. These hugely contributed to over £1500 being raised for the school in the Autumn Term alone.

More recently we've had the return of the greatly anticipated Wonka Bar sale which brought along with it all the excitement of the school prizes for those lucky winners and a lovely time was had by all at the the Valentines Disco!

Planning is already beginning for next term and we can look forward to the FoCS bingo night shortly after the Easter holidays (information to follow), which is always a fabulous evening, along with lots of other upcoming dates for the diary so stay tuned.

Finally, we're always on the lookout for any volunteers who can help us out, particularly parents of KS1 pupils - anything from being a key committee member to lending a hand at events when you can. If you're interested, please get in touch with any of us on the FoCS team!



MATHSHUBS
BOOLEAN

Year 6 Easter Maths Challenge

Thinking mathematically to solve problems is great preparation for SATs!

For Year 6 children and their families
led by experienced Year 6 Teacher and Maths Mastery Specialist

Year 6 children and grown-ups, join us online
9 - 9.30am on *all or some* the following dates:

- Tuesday 31st March
- Wednesday 1st April
- Thursday 2nd April
- Tuesday 7th April
- Wednesday 8th April
- Thursday 9th April

To get involved scan the QR code and register on Eventbrite to receive the Zoom link and reminders before each session.



VICKERY'S

Family Days Out In The Sun

Join us for a memorable day of fun.
You decide where you would like to go, from the choices below and let us worry about the rest.

Option 1 Lyme Regis Charmouth West Bay Weymouth Dates: 28 May 23 July 12 August	Option 2 Seaton Sidmouth Budleigh Exmouth Dates: 27 July 20 August	Option 3 Poole Bournemouth Dates: 26 May 4 August 27 August
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Prices:
Family of 5 - £60
2 adults and 1 or 2 children - £40
1 adult and 1 or 2 children - £25
Children are upto 16 years old

Local pick up points



Scan the QR code for more trips