

Dear Parents and Carers,

Amazingly, we are now approaching our final half term of the year. This last half term has been packed with lots of activities and experiences for our children to enjoy. We have captured some of them for you to see and remember with your children on the coming pages.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who attended the recent Parent Forum in which they were able to ask questions about how the children in our new mixed Y1/Y2 and Y3/Y4 classes will be taught in September. Please see the most frequently asked questions below.

You said the combination of year 5/6 has been a success, what makes it a success?

Children are set for core subjects based on their working level. This means as a result of termly assessments, children are regrouped. Their current knowledge determines which group they are in. Through these assessments, we have seen the measure of progress has been substantial. Children are making good coverage of the curriculum and are able to demonstrate what they have learnt.

How will you ensure children of higher ability are not bored? How are you ensured they are challenged?

Children will be set. This means they will have a home class, similar to secondary school. The children will move to a different class for different lessons. Teachers are skilled at formative assessment, marking and feedback. The teachers go around the classroom to support the learning after giving the input to the lesson.

The children seem to enjoy the learning, in year 5/6 they have the opportunity of attending booster lessons during lunch if they wish to and many chose to attend.

We need more data; we haven't seen SATs results yet?

As you know, KS2 SATs are externally marked, results will be released to schools in July.

Will my child be disadvantaged if they move schools?

No, by law we have to follow the National Curriculum which is the same across the UK so they will not be disadvantaged in any way. The National Curriculum is laid out in programmes of study. The coverage is by year group blocks. Key stage 1: years 1 and 2; lower Key Stage 2: years 3 and 4 and upper key stage 2: years 5 and 6. This means across both year groups in each block, there are defined skills and knowledge to learn by the end of the key stage. This allows the children to follow the sequence of learning over a two-year period. We match completely with the National Curriculum outcomes.

It is worth considering that, in any class you have children that are working at expected, above expected and below expected and the teacher would plan work for each of those groups. With the three mixed classes, the children will be going to different classes for setting rather than one. It will benefit their learning.

Why weren't we consulted as parents?

There was no consultation because the decision had already been made by Bexley LA due to falling numbers. Bexley LA called all heads of schools across the Borough to three meetings to discuss the changes in this area. There are less children across the whole Borough due to families moving out of the area, possibly due to the cost of living in the area. There are also low birth rates which affect school numbers. The Borough told us we have to make the changes to ensure we do not go over budget. The decision is a directive from the LA, not the Trust. We get a set amount of funding for each child that attends school, less children equals less money for the school.

In the last year what money did we get to run the school? Was there a deficit?

Schools are legally not allowed to go into financial deficit.

We cannot disclose financial decisions; all accounts of spending go to the Governors and the Trust to be authorized. Schools are audited, by an external body, 5 times a year. All of the money has to be accounted for and must be shown to support outcomes for children's learning.

Do the teachers have enough support, time, resources?

The benefit of being in the Trust is that they have bought into mental health resources for staff to access free of charge.

All teachers get PPA time, full time teachers get 2.5 hours a week to plan the learning for the children. Those teachers who teach the same year group/s have their PPA time together to enable them to plan together and ensure consistency between the classes.

Kind regards,
Mrs Y Bishop
Principal Castilion Primary School



Summer One is Done!

A great turnout this term for TTRS! Even with SATs and other wonderful things occurring across our school, well done for finding the time to improve your fluency!

Let's look back at the whole term to see how our classes got on!

Week	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5/6
2	Whittaker	Henry	Simms/Abbas	Annansingh
3	Whittaker	Henry	Simms/Abbas	Annansingh
4	Whittaker	Henry	Simms/Abbas	Annansingh
5	Whittaker	Henry	Simms/Abbas	Bonsu

Years 2-4 looking incredibly one-sided so far!

We've also got an update to our Summer Champions leaderboard!

Year	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Score	872	2360	2156	110	555

Years 3 and 4 steaming ahead of everyone else this term! Will they keep it up in Summer 2? Will Year 5 be left trailing in the dust? It's all to play for with the Summer Champions crown on the line!

Thank you again for all your hard work this term!



Castilion
Primary School

We did it!

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Silver Rights Aware Award for Rights Respecting. Silver Rights Aware is the second stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award. It is granted by UNICEF UK to schools that show good progress towards embedding children's rights in the school's policy, practice and ethos, as outlined in the RRSA Strands and Outcomes. We





Sports events

Our Sports Leaders have been in charge of running and ensuring groups of 5 line up to play the new ActivAll Boards. Individual challenges or combat game mode can be played between the two boards. Here are three of the games that the children love:

Clear Out - For repetitive exercise, stamina building and core stability. Popular within circuit training routines and effective with all types of accessory.

Chaser - A pure speed and reaction challenge which also tests peripheral vision.

Combat - A direct dual between players. Intense and great fun. Builds a competitive spirit and improves social interaction between competitors in addition to improving speed, reaction time and hand-eye coordination.





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Sports events

Well done to Tanav (Y6) and Reina (Y3) for taking part in the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice's Mini Marathon on the 14th May to raise money for the charity.



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Primary Academies Trust



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Learning at Castilion this term

Reception

Reception have been reading 'The Night Pirates' and we are really enjoying the pirate tavern and ship role play areas. We played a game where we had to follow instructions for all the jobs pirates have to do on the ship. 'Scrub the deck!' 'Raise the sail.' We've enjoyed exploring other texts about pirates, ships and sailing. We have read 'Pirates love Underpants' and a non-fiction book about the titanic.

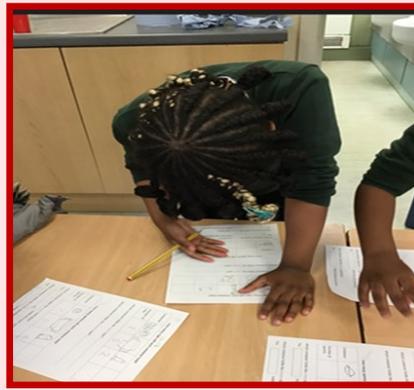




Learning at Castilion this term

Year 1

In maths, year 1 have been learning to compare the capacities of different containers. We carried out a practical experiment and found bigger containers had greater capacity than smaller containers and that it is important to use the same unit to compare volumes.



In science the children have learnt about animals and their habitats. They looked at how swallows migrate to warmer places in winter and described some of the countries they might pass over. The children also looked at famous places from a bird's eye view in a class quiz to understand what they might be seeing.





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Learning at Castilion this term

Year 2

This term, Year 2 have had an exciting time conducting a new investigation into how plants grow in different temperatures.

We've planted some seeds carefully and, over the next few weeks, we will monitor them to see how they grow in different areas of the school! See if you can spot them! We have also planted some of our seeds in the big planters outside our fence – hopefully these grow just as well!



.In English, Year 2 have been doing some fantastic writing with The Dragon Machine and are looking to get some of our work on the walls soon! We have also been learning how to tell the time and we will soon be reminding you when our dinner is due!

We're looking forward to some new adventures next term!



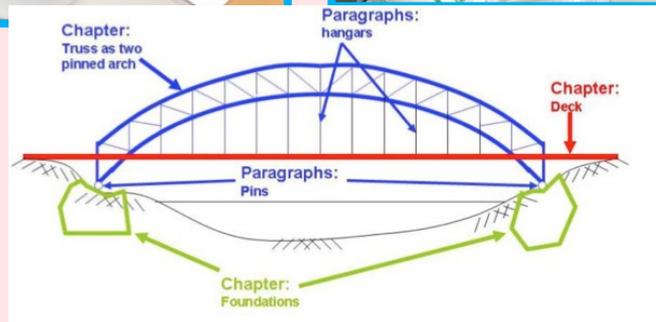
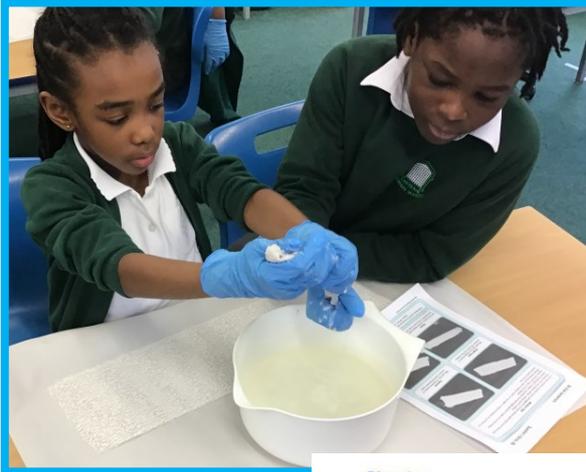


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Learning at Castilion this term

Year 3

In DT Children used modrock to investigate different ways to making a bridge stronger.



In science, Year 3 have been learning to about light and investigated how shadows are made.





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Learning at Castilion this term

Year 3



In PE, the children have been developing their existing running, jumping, and throwing skills. They have learnt about effective sprinting techniques, including sprinting over obstacles. They are getting better at working independently, in pairs and working collaboratively within a group.



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Learning at Castilion this term

Year 4

Indoor PE – Problem Solving

The unit of work has developed pupil's ability to apply effective teamwork through different problem-solving challenges. Throughout the unit, there has been a focus on pupils' ability to apply skills essential to working within a team as well as create effective tactics.

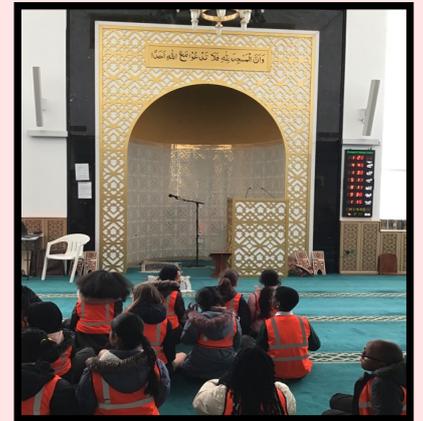




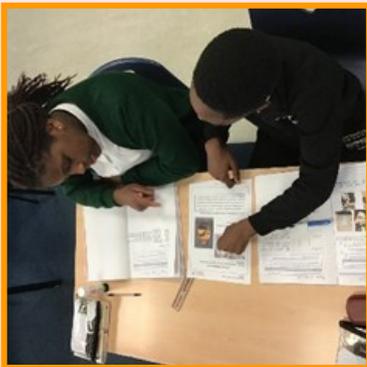
Learning at Castilion this term

Year 5/6

Year 5/6 visited the Woolwich mosque. The children had an opportunity to see the main prayer hall, the separate male and female areas used for wudu (where Muslims use water to purify themselves before prayer) and have a look at the many Qurans on display.



Ancient Greece has been the topic of our history lessons. We recently looked at the Olympic games and their origins in ancient Greece. We looked at historical evidence and the similarities and differences between the games then and the modern Olympic games.





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Rights Respecting Award

Reception



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for summer term 1

Congratulations!

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Rights Respecting Award

Year 1



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for summer term 1





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Rights Respecting Award

Year 2



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for summer term 1



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Rights Respecting Award

Year 3



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for summer term 1



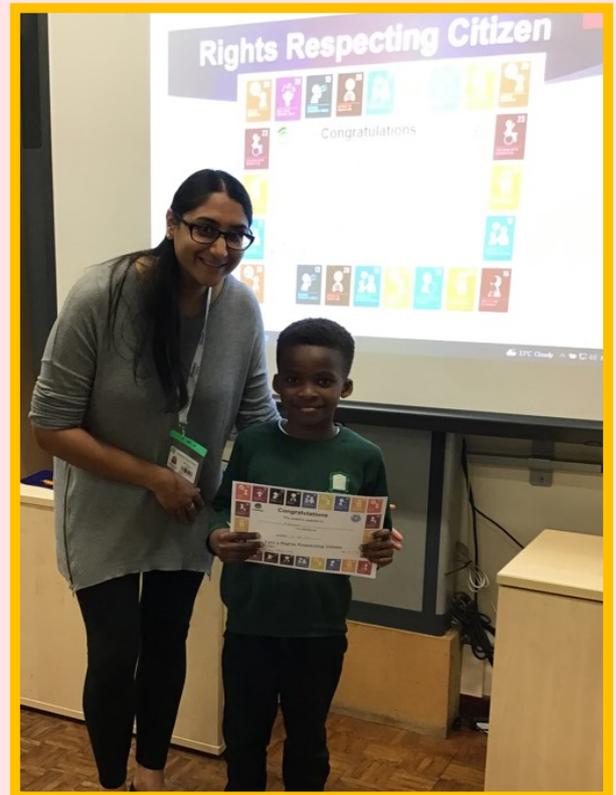
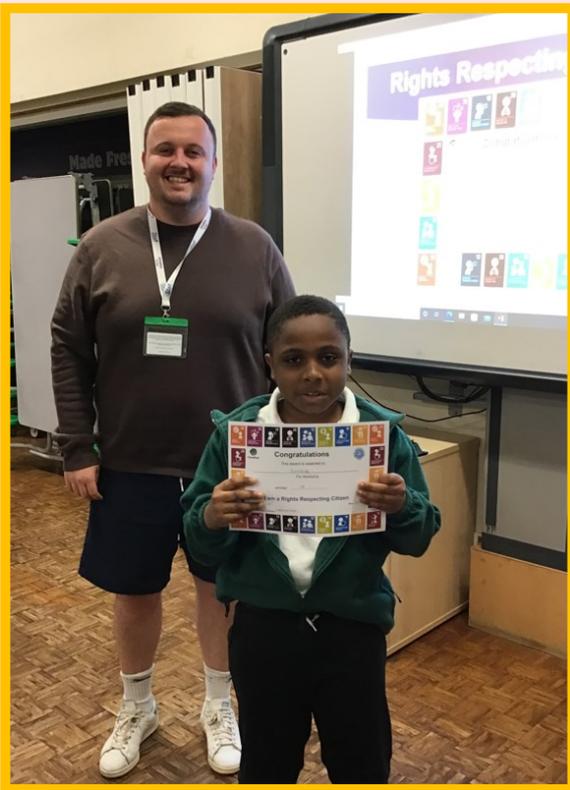
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Rights Respecting Award

Year 4



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for summer term 1

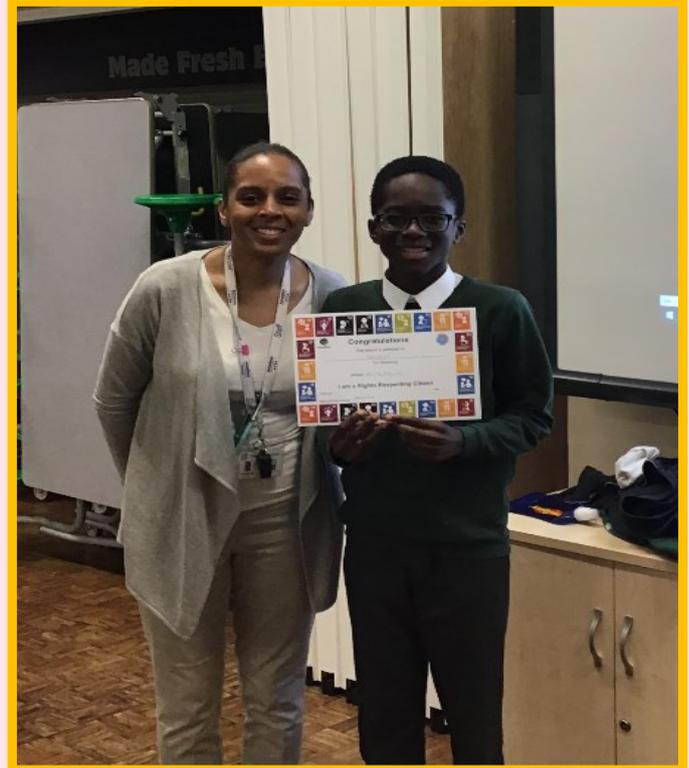
Congratulations!



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Rights Respecting Award

Year 5/6



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for summer term 1



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Uniform

At Castilion, we encourage our children to wear their school uniform with pride.

Here is a reminder of the Castilion uniform:

- ◆ White polo shirt
- ◆ Green jumper, cardigan or fleece (if you wish to purchase a top with the school logo, these can be purchased at www.mapac.com)
- ◆ Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore or shorts



Our full uniform policy can be found on our website;
<https://www.castilion.apat.org.uk/uniform>



Attendance

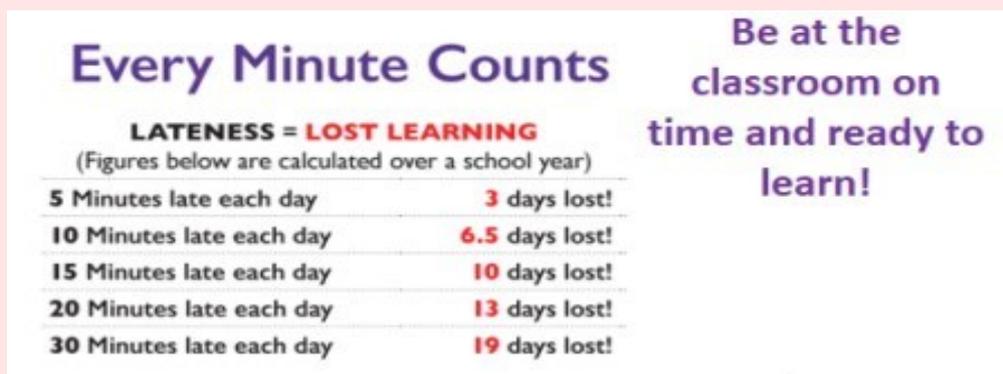


Under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

Attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence and this means **your child missing 19 or more days during the academic year**. This is roughly equivalent to your child missing 1 day or more every 2 weeks, or around 6 days each term.

Arriving a couple of minutes late we might be tempted to think “well it’s just a couple of minutes” but over an academic year regular late arrival can look like this:





Attendance

Attendance explained:

When schools talk about attendance they tend to do this in terms of percentages. This can be really confusing as, for instance, if someone scored 80% in a test that would be a great score. However, these percentages look very different when we talk about attendance:

	100%	OUTSTANDING
4 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	98%	VERY GOOD
7 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	96%	GOOD
10 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	95%	ALMOST THERE
11 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	94%	IMPROVEMENT NEEDED
20 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	90%	CONCERNED
29 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	85%	VERY CONCERNED
38 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	80%	SERIOUSLY CONCERNED
48 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	75%	EXTREMELY CONCERNED
67 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	65%	EXTREMELY CONCERNED
95 SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	50%	EXTREMELY CONCERNED

The same can be said about punctuality and lateness, when we arrive a couple of minutes late we might be tempted to think "well it's just a couple of minutes" but over an academic year regular late arrival can look like this:



We always understand that there are some situations that are outside of your control, and in these circumstances, we always advise parents/carers to contact the school to discuss.

We ask for your continued support with regards to attendance and punctuality and that you discuss the importance of good attendance and punctuality with your children to enable them to make the most of every opportunity to reach their personal and academic potential.

Attendance

Please do see the percentage of overall attendance by class for the second half of the autumn term

Attendance	
Y1 - ISLAM	95.81%
Y1 - WHITE	94.68%
Y2 - ALLEN	95.77%
Y2 - WHITTAKER	93.42%
Y3 - CAKIR	95.24%
Y3 - MOSTOWSKA	98.28%
Y4 - OLOYEDE	98.15%
Y4 - SIMMS/ABBAS	94.08%
Y5/Y6 ANNANSINGH	98.47%
Y5/Y6 BONSU	97.99%
Y5/Y6 JAMESON	95.11%
YR - AVERY/DURRANT	93.73%
YR - DIXON/TAIWO	94.21%
Total	96.18%



We are so proud of each and every one of the children who have achieved a good record of attendance during the months of November and December. AWESOME JOB! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



We would like to remind all parents and carers that it is important that all children come to school every day and on time. As a school, we take attendance very seriously, and regularly monitor this.



School Meals

Please see the summer term menu below.

	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(Wg) Veggie Sausage Roll with Jacket Wedges (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Chocolate Shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(Wg) Beany Chilli with Jacket Wedges (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day St Clement's shortbread (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V)(Wg) Quorn Hotdog with Jacket Wedges (V) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Vanilla Iced Shortbread (Ve)
TUESDAY	Chicken Meatballs with Mash & Gravy Veggie Sausage with Mash & Gravy (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Apple Crumble (Ve)(Wg) with Custard (V)	Cottage Pie Veggie Cottage Pie (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Chocolate & Pear Sponge with Chocolate Custard (V)	Pork or Chicken Sausages with Mash & Gravy Veggie Sausage with Mash & Gravy (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Custard Cream Sponge (V)
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day with Roasties, Stuffing & Gravy Veggie & Stuffing Roll with Roasties & Gravy (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Strawberry Jelly & Pears (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties, Yorkshire & Gravy Roasted Butternut Squash with Roasties, Yorkshire & Gravy (V) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Strawberry Jelly & Peaches (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Chickpea & Veggie Puff with Roasties (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Orange Jelly & Mandarins (Ve)
THURSDAY	Penne with Beef Bolognese (Wg) Penne with Beany Bolognese (Ve)(Wg) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Banana Bread (V)	Mild & Sweet Chicken Curry with Rice (Wg) Mac & Cheese (V) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Flapjack (Ve)(Wg)	Beef Chilli with Rice (Wg) Mac & Cheese (V) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Apple Flapjack (Ve)(Wg)
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Garden Vegetable Goujons with Chips (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Vanilla Ice Cream & Peaches (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Garden Vegetable Goujons with Chips (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Vanilla Ice Cream & Banana (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Garden Vegetable Goujons with Chips (Ve) Tomato Pasta or a Choice of Filled Jackets Veg of the Day Vanilla Ice Cream & Fruit Cocktail (V)
	15/4/24, 6/5/24, 27/5/24, 17/6/24, 8/7/24, 29/7/24	22/4/24, 13/5/24, 3/6/24, 24/6/24, 15/7/24	29/4/24, 20/5/24, 10/6/24, 1/7/24, 22/7/24

Freshly baked bread, fresh fruit, yoghurts and fresh drinking water available daily

V - Vegetarian Ve - Vegan Wg - Wholegrain

If you would like to change your child's meal plan please contact

Packed lunches

If you provide your child with a packed lunch please remember we are a nut free school due to severe nut allergies. This includes products such as peanut butter and hazelnut spreads.

As the weather gets warmer you may wish to consider using an insulated lunch bag and where possible adding a frozen cold pack to prevent food going off.

If you wish to change your child to school dinners please contact the school office.

Our full packed lunch policy can be found on our website;

<https://www.castilion.apat.org.uk/catering>



Warm weather



With the return of the warmer weather please ensure your child has a water bottle in school with them every day.

Please put a high factor sun cream on your child/ren before they come to school and they have a hat to protect them from the sun during break times.

Please note sunglasses are not permitted.