



Castilion
Primary School

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to another new term of learning at Castilion Primary School. The teachers have planned some very exciting learning experiences for the children to enjoy this term.

I would like to share the highlights of the previous autumn term with you. It was a very busy, but wonderful, end to the autumn term. The children took part in some truly magical and memorable performances which were very well attended by parents – thank you.

As a school community, we are immensely proud of our children and their achievements. Through this newsletter, we are pleased to share with you aspects of children's learning that took place over the last term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Y. Bishop

Principal Castilion Primary School



Castilion
Primary School

Safeguarding



Miss Annansingh Lead DSL

Bullying

At Castilion, we take any forms of bully seriously

Bullying can be different things, and isn't just hitting or kicking another person.

Emotional bullying is hurting someone's feelings, leaving them out or bossing them about.

Physical bullying is punching, kicking, spitting, hitting or pushing someone.

Verbal bullying is teasing someone, calling them names or using rude hand signs. People can also use verbal bullying to be racist or homophobic.

Racist means bullying someone because of their skin colour, race or what they believe in.

Homophobic means bullying someone because of their gender or sexuality; calling someone gay or lesbian to hurt their feelings would be homophobic.

Sexist means bullying someone because of their sex (whether they are a boy or a girl).

Cyber bullying involves sending horrid messages over the internet or by text message.

*Bullying can be done through **another person**, by one person sending another person to say nasty things.*

All children are encouraged to speak to any duty bearer if they have a problem or they can put a note in the worry box in their class





Safeguarding



Miss Annansingh Lead DSL

Pupils in Years 5 and 6

While there is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own, we believe that pupils in year 3, 4 should be still brought to and collected from school and this is our school policy. Therefore, as regards pupils in Years 5 and 6, we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone.

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently.

Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively, cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. Speak to your child about what they should do if this should ever happen.

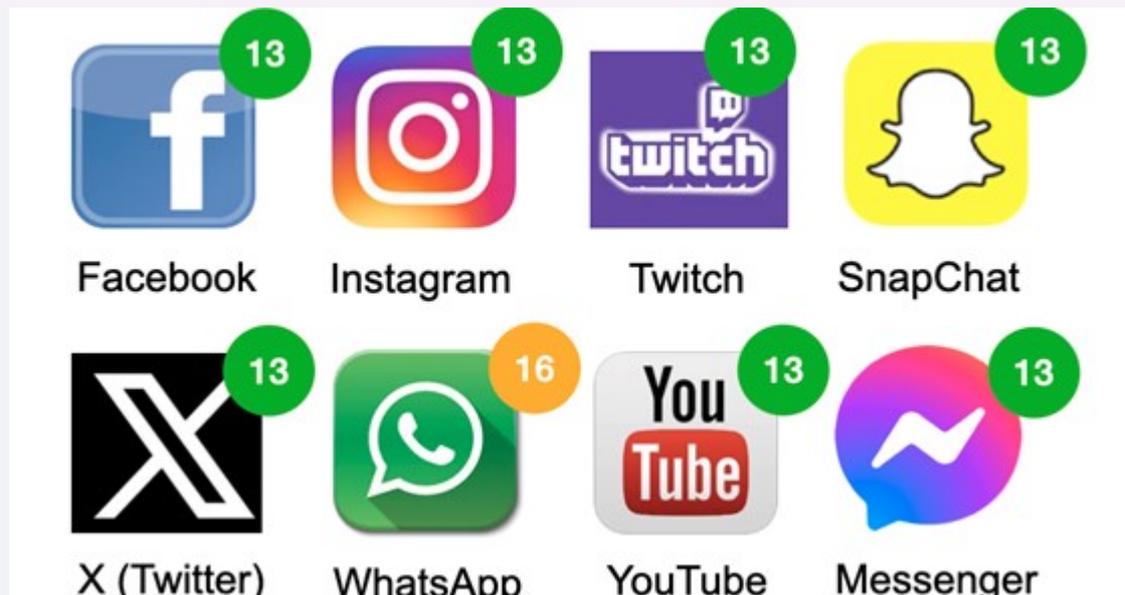
IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.





Safeguarding

Please ensure that you are update with the age ratings of certain apps which children may have access to.



To ensure that the children know what to do they have been shown the image below to help them recognise the dangers online and what to do.

<h1>S</h1> <p>Stay Safe</p> <p>Don't give out your personal information to people / places you don't know.</p> 	<h1>M</h1> <p>Don't Meet Up</p> <p>Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Always check with an adult you trust.</p> 	<h1>A</h1> <p>Accepting Files</p> <p>Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems.</p> 	<h1>R</h1> <p>Reliable?</p> <p>Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth?</p> 	<h1>T</h1> <p>Tell Someone</p> <p>Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.</p> <p>Follow these SMART tips to keep yourself safe online!</p> 
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A message from our SENDCO, Mrs Whittaker



flare@bexleymorrings.co.uk

FLARE is a friendly group of parents and carers who benefit from regular, and always FREE workshops and training. Also providing a support group which offers peer support on all of the challenges of living with young people, ANYONE with children can join and benefit. A listening ear, practical advice and signposting to local services that can help you and your family.



Bexley Voice is a voluntary organisation of parents and carers of children and young people (age 0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) living in the London Borough of Bexley.



Bexley Information Advice & Support Service (IASS) is an impartial and confidential service providing information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational need and/or disabilities (SEND) up to 25 years, and their parents/carers.



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A message from our SENDCO, Mrs Whittaker

LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
Trusted by Bexley residents

www.bexley.gov.uk

Special Education Need or Disability

Bexley Local Offer

The Bexley Local Offer is an online guide and service that provides information on services available to children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families/carers. The information and advice available covers:

- ▶ Education and Learning
- ▶ SEN Support
- ▶ Education, Health and Care Plans
- ▶ Health and Wellbeing
- ▶ Children's Specialist Health Services
- ▶ Social Care and Support
- ▶ Early Years
- ▶ Preparing for Adulthood
- ▶ SEN travel assistance
- ▶ Entertainment and Leisure
- ▶ Clubs and Activities
- ▶ Contacts, Help and Advice

Find out more by visiting www.bexleylocaloffer.uk
Email: localoffer@bexley.gov.uk
Telephone: 0203 045 5677



A message from our PE lead, Mr Cummins

This term, we've been delighted to enhance our playground with the installation of brand-new basketball hoops, giving children more opportunities to engage in active play. Additionally, we've purchased a variety of new games and equipment to ensure there's something for everyone to enjoy during lunch times.

In December, our school took part in the **Active Advent Calendar**, encouraging students to get moving every day with fun and festive activities. We've also introduced **movement breaks** in class to boost concentration and focus, supporting both physical activity and academic success.

Next term, we're excited to introduce **inter-class tournaments!** These will give children the chance to apply the skills they've learned in PE in friendly competitions against their peers in the same year group or class.

We're confident this initiative will not only encourage teamwork and sportsmanship but also inspire students to further develop their abilities while having fun.





Castilion says NO to bullying!



BEST INTERESTS
OF THE CHILD



All children and staff came together to say NO to bullying.
To mark the occasion, everyone wore odd socks





Children In Need





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Rights Respecting Champions

Our Rights Respecting Champions did a fantastic job making our school hall look wonderful ,ready or our charismas performances.



Our Rights Respecting Champions also had the opportunity to interview our interim chef. All children are happy that they have a chance to choose their own food options in advance and love that their meals are tasty.





Christmas jumper day



We raised £114.14 for save the children.



Save the Children

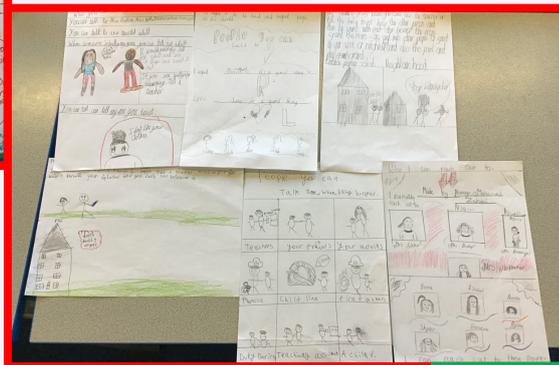
Christmas dinner





Rights Respecting School

This half term, the children have been exploring the articles below and have produced some fantastic outcomes generated from class discussions.



24

HEALTH, WATER, FOOD, ENVIRONMENT

33

PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS

13

SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY

12

RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS

2

NO DISCRIMINATION

Castilion
Primary School

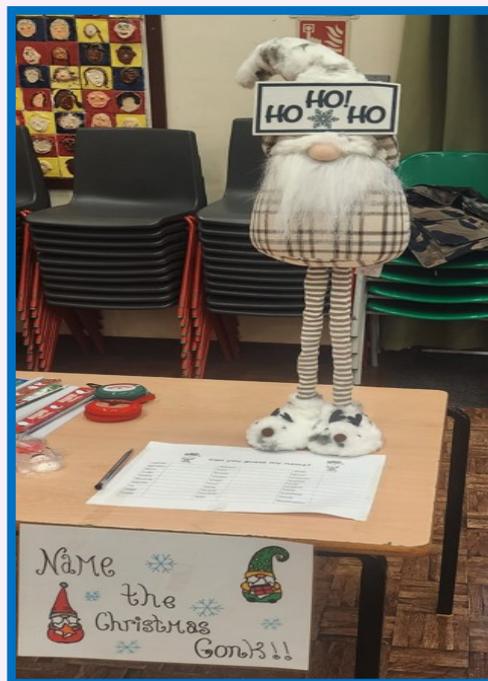
Christmas fair

A big Thank You from the PTA for donations and attendance. Couldn't have done this without you all. Funds raised enable us to help the school and our children.

We are a very small team, having volunteers and members means we can achieve more for the school. Interested parents please reach out to any member of the team.

Date for PTA Annual General Meeting to be published in the New Year.

Please come for a brief meeting to find out more about what we have been up to and our plans for the future.

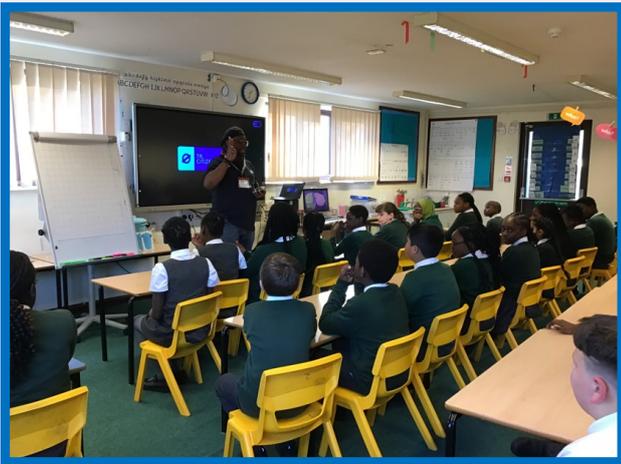




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Y6 workshop with TFL

As our Y6s edge closer to starting secondary school, all children were taught about being responsible on public transport and the dos and don'ts reading to behaviour



Transport
for London

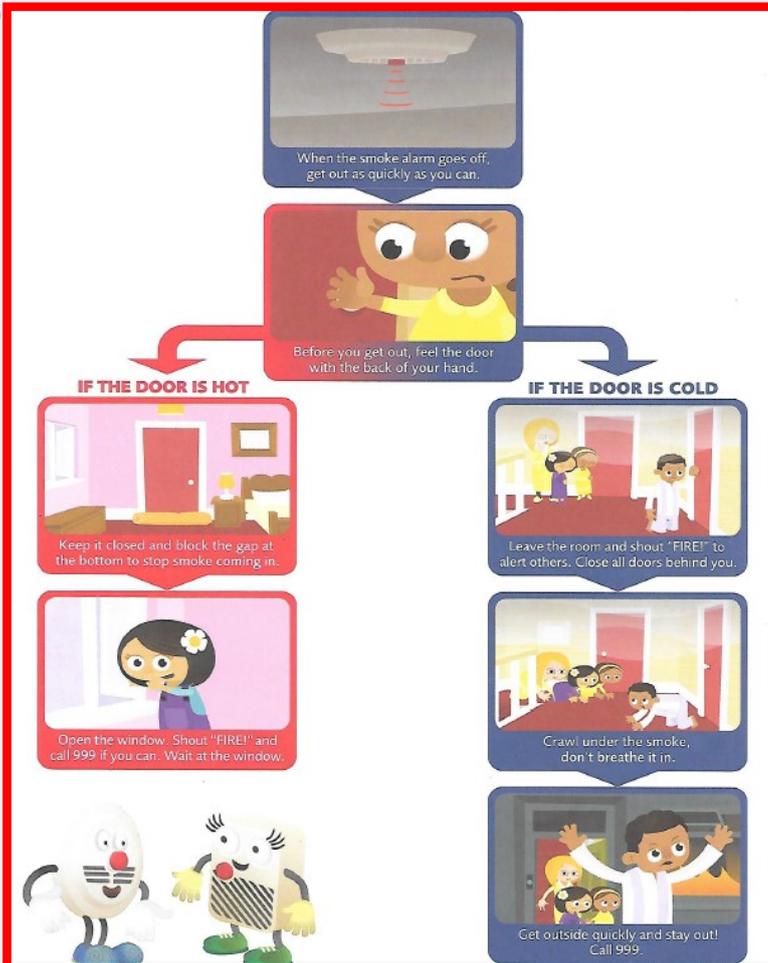
Amadeus
Primary Academies Trust





Y5 workshop with the London Fire Brigade

The London Fire Brigade came to speak to us about fire safety and what we need to do in case of a fire.





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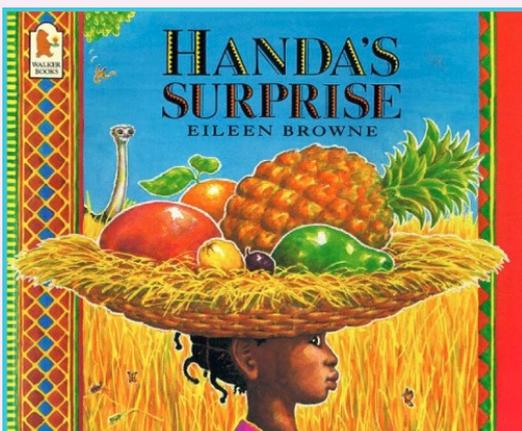
Learning at Castilion this term

Reception

This term reception read the books 'Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain' and 'Handa's Surprise.' We enjoyed exploring life in Kenya and made comparisons between Handa's journey and our own journeys to school.

We also looked at some traditional African dances, noticing what the dancers were wearing, and listened to music from different countries in Africa.

*photos attached of comparisons and making outfits and repeating pattern paper plate necklaces



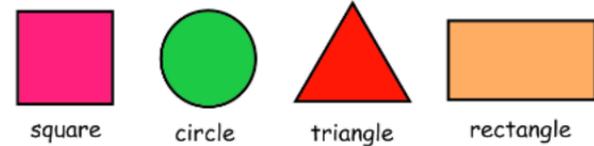
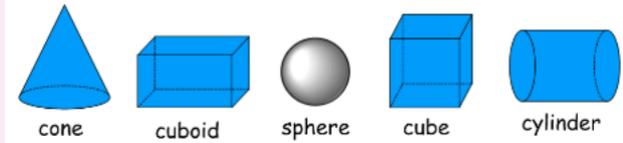


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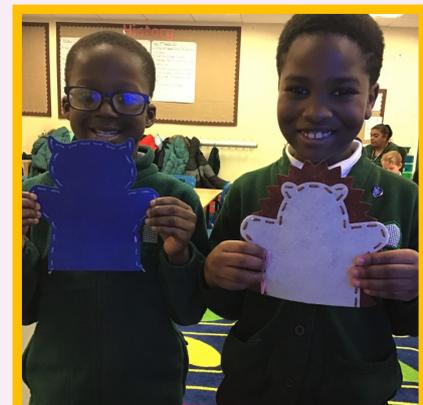
Learning at Castilion this term

Year 1/2

In Year 1/2 we have been learning the names of 2-D and 3-D shapes and their properties. We then used lollysticks and masking tape to make our own 2-D and 3-D shapes and discussed how many shapes we could make and why we could not make a circle or a sphere.



In DT, the children learnt about different types of puppets and the material they are made from (linking to Science topic -materials) and in which ways they are controlled. The children then designed their own finger puppets. The children looked at different types of stitching and then had a go on their own practising running stitch. Their end result turned out really amazing!

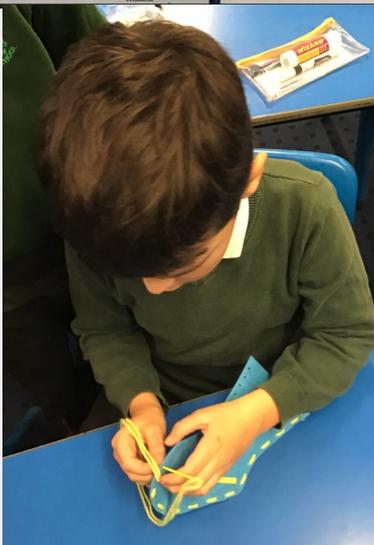
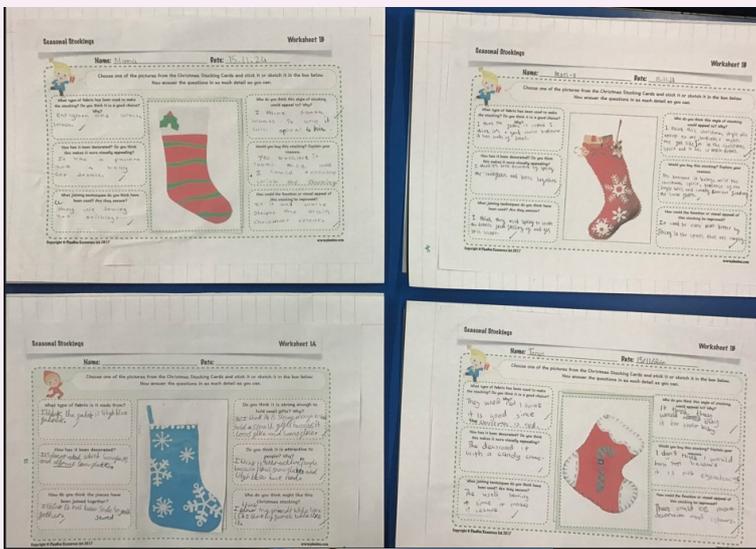




Learning at Castilion this term

Year 3/4

In DT, Year 3/4 designed their own Christmas stockings and then brought them to life. They created Christmas-theme objects using different colours of felt and decorated their stockings further with pom-poms, ribbons, googly eyes, and other materials. To complete their creation, they used a running stitch to sew the two pieces of the stocking together.



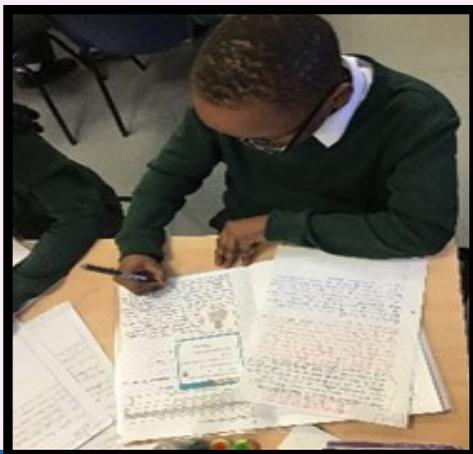
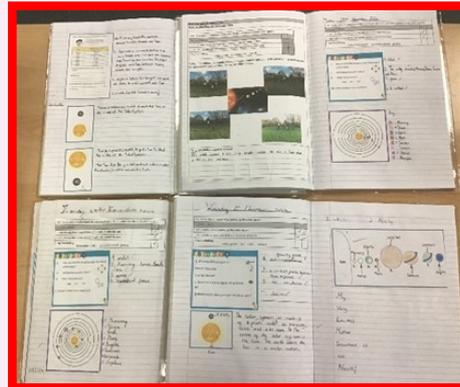
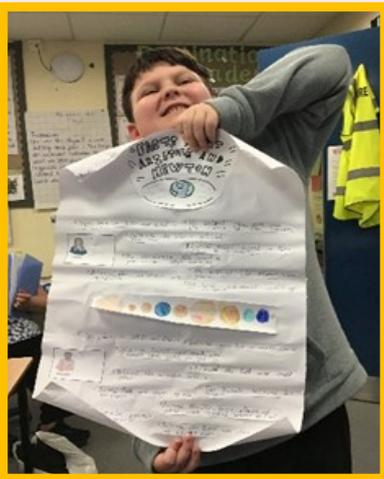


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Learning at Castilion this term

Year 5/6

This half term in science, children in Y5/6 have been exploring space. The children can explain why models are used in science and identify what each of the 8 planets are made up of



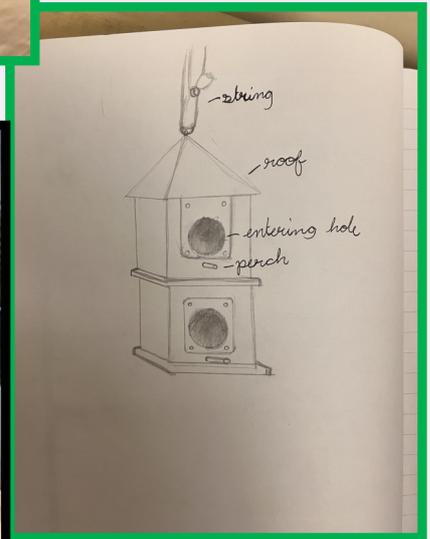
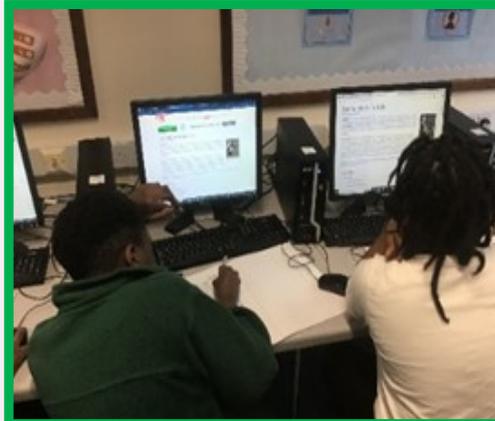
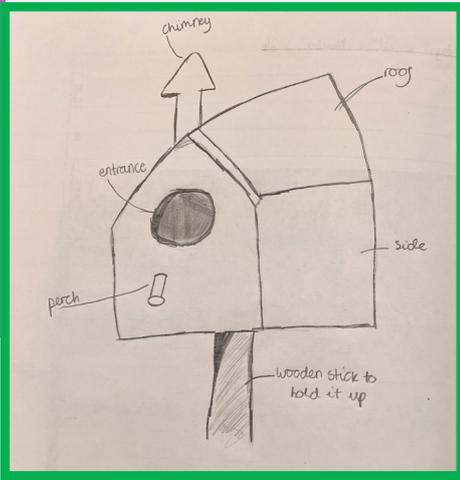


Castilion Primary School

Learning at Castilion this term

Year 5/6

In DT, the children in Y5/6 have been working hard to design their own bird house. They had to research materials, dimensions, depending on the type of bird they want to attract and what they want their house to look like



An exploded diagram 1

An exploded diagram 2

Thursday 28th November 2024

Wood

Success Criteria	Y	M
I can write a detailed plan for a bird house.		
I can explain the requirements for the birdhouse I am writing for.		
I can draw a detailed diagram of my bird house.		

Room

I am making my bird houses for a robin.
It's nose is usually in a tree stump and likes to use grass moss and leaves.
It makes a nest in unusual places like an old boot.
Robins prefer open-fronted bird houses.

Materials I will need:
paints, glue gun, grass, moss, leaves, sand paper and wood for my bird house.

Safety tips
I will keep my hands and fingers away from the tip of the glue gun.

Step to making my bird house:

1. Sand all the pieces of glue until they are smooth.
2. Paint and decorate the pieces of wood.
3. Glue the ends of the saw pieces.

Barn Owl

Height of bird house: 12 inches
Hole size: 5 1/2 inch
Type and number of eggs: 4 to 6 eggs
Incubation time: 30 to 34 days
Hatching time by: 50 days
Interesting fact: They use for life unless parents are killed.

Starling

Height of bird house: 15 to 20 inches
Hole size: 2 inches
Type and number of eggs: 5-7 eggs
Incubation time: 12 to 15 days
Hatching time by: 5-7 days
Interesting fact: They have red-brown quills.

Blue Tit

Height of bird house: 15 inches
Hole size: 1.5 inch
Type and number of eggs: 8-12 eggs
Incubation time: 14-15 days
Hatching time by: 18 to 21 days
Interesting fact: Blue tits weigh 11g.

Thursday 14th November 2024

Success Criteria	Y	M
I can describe the materials and features a bird house has.		
I can draw a detailed diagram.		
I can draw a 3-D diagram.		

Bird house diagram

Front view

Side view

Top view

entering hole

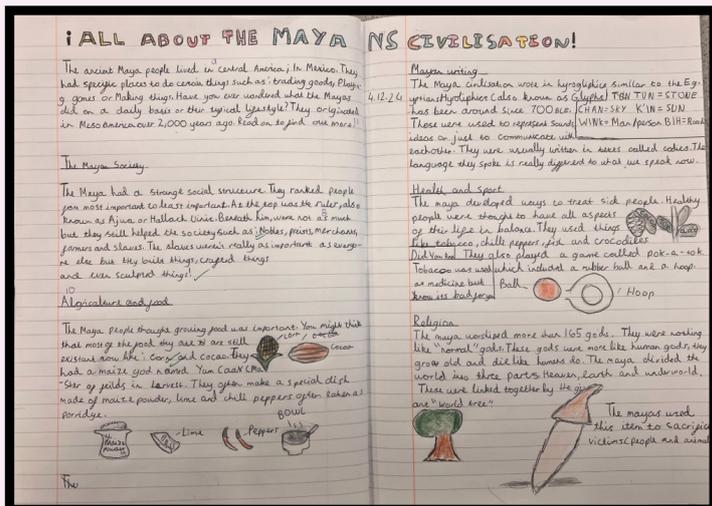
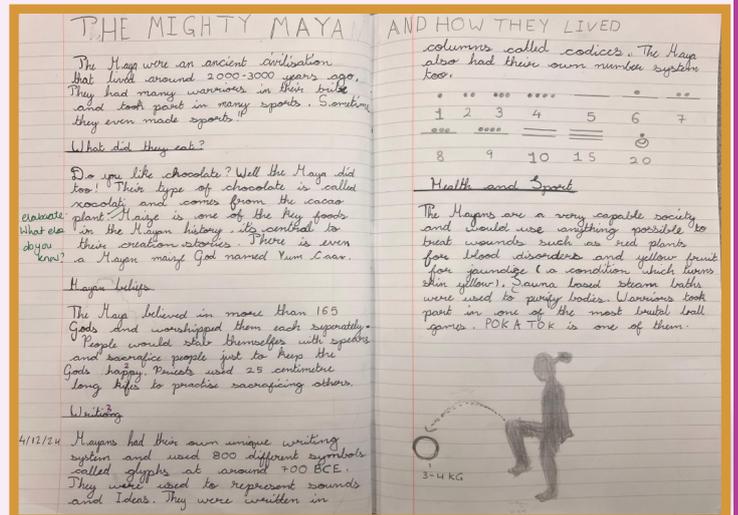
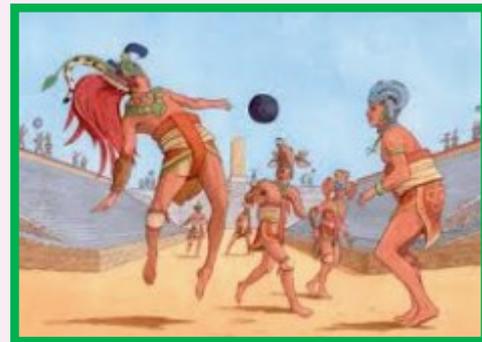
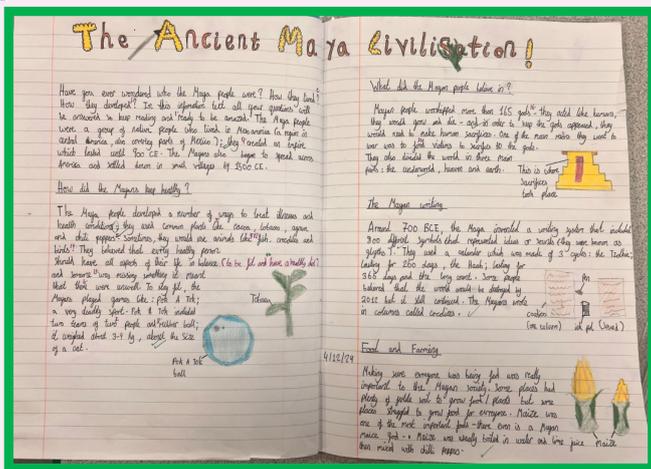
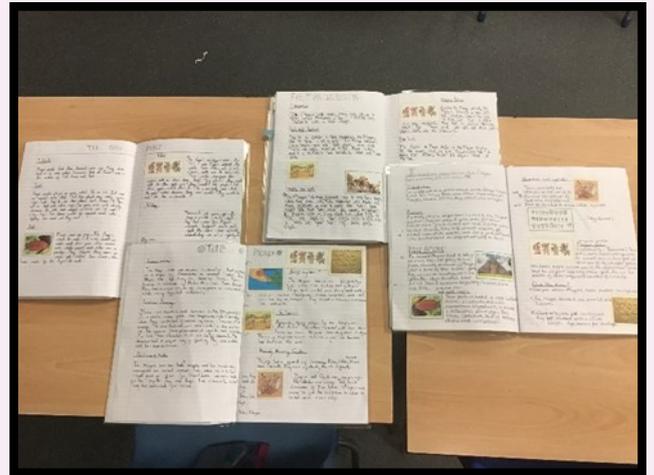
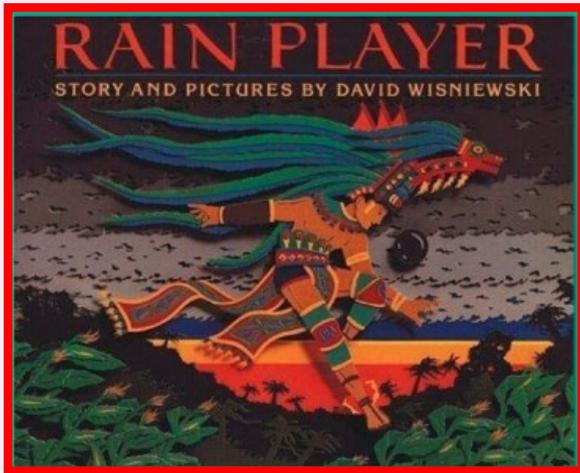


Castilion Primary School

Learning at Castilion this term

Year 5/6

One of the text that the children have explored this term is Rainplayer. For their product, children had to write an information text all about the Mayan civilization





Castilion
Primary School

Rights Respecting Award

Reception



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for autumn 2



Amadeus
Primary Academies Trust
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Castilion
Primary School

Rights Respecting Award

Year 1/2



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for autumn term 2



Amadeus
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Castilion
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Rights Respecting Award

Year 3/4



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for autumn 2



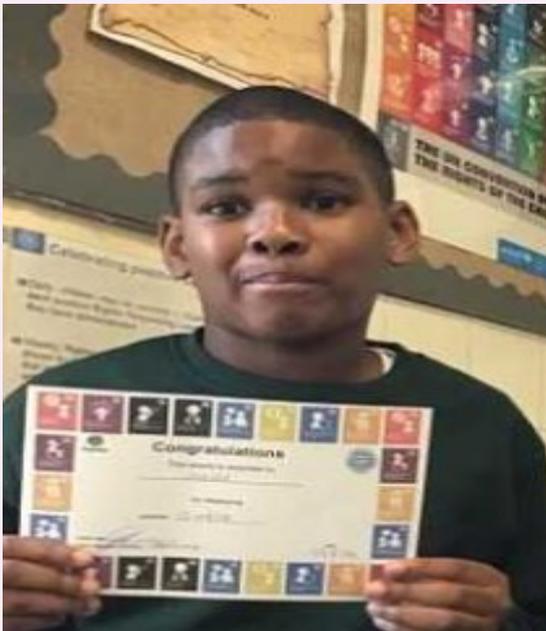
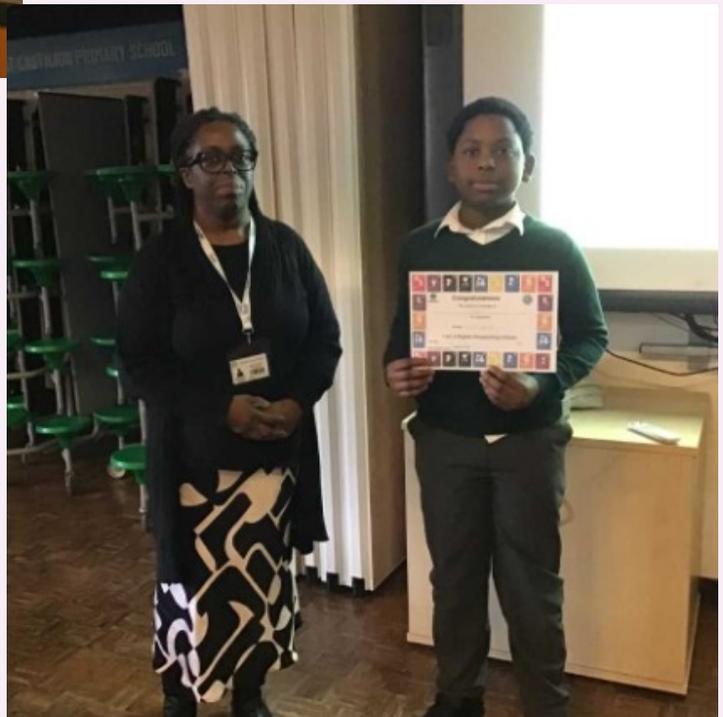
Amadeus
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Castilion
Primary School

Rights Respecting Award

Year 5/6



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for autumn 2



Amadeus
Primary Academies Trust

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
- ◆ Grey or white socks



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

Class	Attendance
YRDH	87%
Y1/2H	96%
Y1/2T	94%
Y1/2K	95%
Y3/4Ca	94%
Y3/4Cu	96%
Y3/4I	95%
Y5/6AO	95%
Y5/6B	97%
Y5/6J	97%



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.



Castilion
Primary School

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>

