

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another Castilion Primary School Newsletter.

It is hard to believe we have reached the Easter break already. This term has certainly been a busy one. There have been so many events to celebrate, which we have captured for you to see and remember with your children in the coming pages.

It was a real pleasure to see so many of you during the recent parents' evenings where you were able to discuss how your child is achieving in class, and in school generally, with their teacher. I know that many of you were very pleased with your child's current outcomes and are keen to support them in any way you can to improve upon them. This collaborative approach, is certainly one we will continue to cultivate between yourselves and the school.

In the coming summer term, we will be entering the assessment window for all primary schools in the UK. Children from Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6, will be participating in externally reported assessments.

If you have a child in Year 6, at the end of key stage 2 (KS2), they will take national curriculum assessments between **Monday 12 May to Thursday 15 May**.

Date	Activity
Monday 12 May 2025	English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 13 May 2025	English reading
Wednesday 14 May 2025	Mathematics papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15 May 2025	Mathematics paper 3

If you have a child in Year 2, at the end of key stage 1 (KS1), they will take national curriculum assessments **within the month of May**.

If you have a child in Year 1, your child will be participating in the Phonics Screening Check in June. If you have a child in Year 2 who did not meet the expected standard at the end of Year 1, your child will be participating in the Year 2 resits of the Phonics Screening Check in June. The Phonics Screening Check is a check of your child's phonics knowledge. The Phonics Screening Check will take place between **Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June**.

If you have a child in Year 4, your child will be participating in the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) between **Monday 2nd June to Friday 13th June**.

The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify if your child may need additional support.

We hope you and your family have a lovely Easter holiday and take time to rest and enjoy memory making together. We look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Y. Bishop



Safeguarding



Miss Annansingh Lead DSL

Is Roblox safe for my child?

Information to help you decide if Roblox is suitable for your child

Roblox is a gaming platform where players can create and publish their own games. The platform can be a great educational tool to help teach children new skills like coding. However, there are also some risks.

Roblox allows players to build and publish their own games. This means that other users could build games that contain adult or inappropriate themes that your child might see.

- Players can use the communication features of Roblox to talk to one
- other while they are playing. This means that there is a risk of cyber-
- bullying or unwanted contact

Six tips to help keep your child safe on Roblox

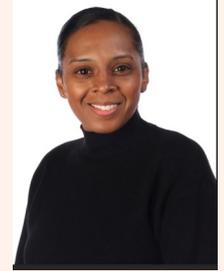
Sign up with the correct age Make sure your child creates an account using the correct age. On Roblox, certain safety settings and parental controls are enabled by default for children under 13. However, you should still review the settings to ensure they've been set up correctly.

Build a list of age-appropriate games Not all games on Roblox will be appropriate for your child. The platform has a setting that lets parents and carers limit what their child can play by allowing them to build lists of age-appropriate games. You can also switch off in-app spending or set them monthly limits.

Explore communication settings You can manage who your child can speak to by disabling chat completely or limiting it to friends only. You can also switch off their inbox to stop them receiving direct messages.



Safeguarding



Miss Annansingh Lead DSL

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX



Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'Oders' and are quite common in Roblox. An Oder is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter Oders. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2005, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday





Safeguarding



Miss Annansingh Lead DSL

For some families, room sharing is a choice to help siblings bond. For others, it's a necessity.

Whatever your reasons for doing it, we've got advice and guidance on how it can be a positive experience and what you can do if your room's feeling overcrowded.

Pros and Cons about sharing a room

Many families find their children enjoy sharing a room because:

- It's the best way to use the space they have available.
- Siblings or step-siblings enjoy one another's company and want to share.
- Fun arrangements like bunk beds can be exciting for children.

However,

Some children may resent not having their own space.

A child may feel uncertain if the sharing is happening because of a wider change they're unsure of (eg blending families).

You may have worries about overcrowding and the support you're entitled to .

What ever the reason is for children sharing bedrooms, we've got advice for that.



Safeguarding



Miss Annansingh Lead DSL

Children sharing a bedroom in social housing

If your home is owned by your council or a housing association, there are rules about how many children can share a room at different ages to prevent overcrowding.

The rules are different depending on where you live in the United Kingdom. Your local authority should be able to give you more information and discuss any concerns.

See the resources section below for advice from charity Shelter on overcrowding rules and what support you're eligible for, depending on your circumstances and where you live.

- If you have a child with a disability, you may be able to claim benefits for their room, as well as for a room for a non-resident carer so they can provide overnight care. There's more information from Shelter in the resources section below.

You can contact a housing advisor through your local [Citizens Advice](#) to discuss your options.

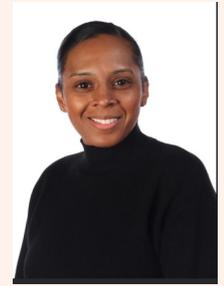
Useful resources

If you live in England

[Overcrowding rules in England](#) (Shelter website)

[Housing advice](#) (Shelter website)

Safeguarding



Online safety for early years (under 5)

More and more children in early years have their own tablets or borrow their parents' devices to play games, use apps and watch their favourite TV shows. See advice on simple things you can do to make sure they're staying safe online.

Please use the link below to access tips

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>



Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children 0-5 Year Olds

internet matters.org

22% of parents of 3-4-year-olds don't think their child has a good balance between screen time and other activities

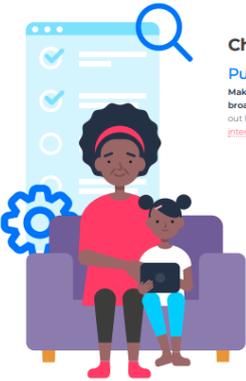
*Source: [Ofcom Children's and parents' media use and attitudes report 2017](#)



Checklist:

Put yourself in control
Make use of parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or [by visiting internetmatters.org](#).

Search safely
Use safe search engines such as [swiggle.org.uk](#) or [kids-search.com](#). **Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines** as well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so that they can't be inadvertently removed. You can find out more by [visiting the Google Safety Centre](#). Once you've put all of these controls in place have a browse and search for a few things to see what your children might see. If they were to do the same. Remember that voice-activated search works really well now.



Set boundaries
It's never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices and start to introduce the subject of internet safety at the same time. Encourage children to use devices in a shared space like a lounge or kitchen. Make sure to keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can't go online without asking you first. It's also a good idea to have tech-free mealtimes and not to allow children to have devices in their bedrooms at this age.



Explore together
Set your homepage to a child-friendly site such as **CBeebies** and give them a user account which only allows access to sites and apps you've chosen.

Help them learn through games
Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them. **Choose a variety of safe and educational online games and apps to play with your child** so that you'll feel more comfortable with them exploring. Make use of websites and platforms designed specifically for pre-schoolers like **CBeebies**, **YouTube Kids**, **Nick Jr.** and use **age ratings** and reviews in the app store to check app suitability.

Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?
Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online – with information, advice and support on all the big online safety issues.



Scan below or visit [internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org) for more advice



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Internet Matters Ltd
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Castilion
Primary School

A message from our SENDCO, Mrs Whittaker



Welcome back all, it was lovely to meet with so many of you during the Spring parents meeting week to ensure your children are receiving appropriate support to aid them in achieving their full potential. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your children over the Summer term. Please find details of the Bexley Local Offer with lots of parent information you may find useful and dates of the Bexley Voice Tea & Talk Support Groups for 2025.



Bexley Voice welcomes members and non-members to our parent/carer support groups.

Come along and meet with other parent/carers and get information and support on any SEND (special educational needs & disabilities) issues.

- Tuesday 13th May 9:30-12:30pm
- Tuesday 10th June 9:30-12:30pm
- Tuesday 24th June 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Tuesday 8th July 9:30-12:30pm
- Tuesday 9th September 9:30-12:30pm
- Tuesday 14th October 9:30-12:30pm
- Thursday 23rd October 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Tuesday 11th November 9:30-12:30pm
- Tuesday 9th December 9:30-12:30pm

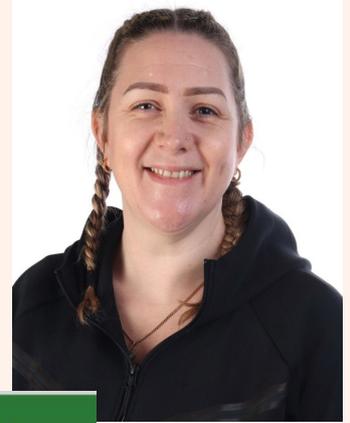
The Danson Youth Centre, Brampton Road,
Bexleyheath, DA7 4EZ.

WWW.BEXLEYVOICE.ORG.UK/TEA--TALK.HTML



Castilion
Primary School

A message from our SENDCO, Mrs Whittaker



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



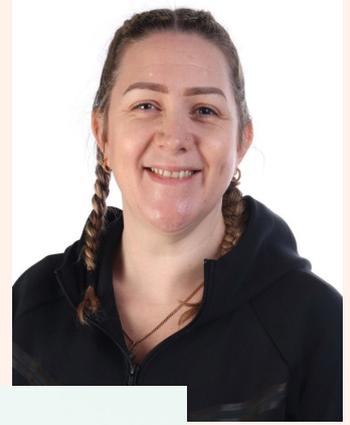
Find out more by visiting www.bexleylocaloffer.uk

Email: localoffer@bexley.gov.uk

Telephone: **0203 045 5677**



A message from our SENDCO, Mrs Whittaker



Would you like to receive our parent/carer e-newsletter?

This regular newsletter keeps parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities informed of relevant local and national updates and any matters of interest and importance across our local area.

To register please follow this link www.bexley.gov.uk/newsupdates and provide your email address.

Newsletter for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Our regular newsletter is designed by our local children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The purpose is to ensure our children & young people are supported with sharing their views and expertise as well as being aware of what is on and available in their local area.

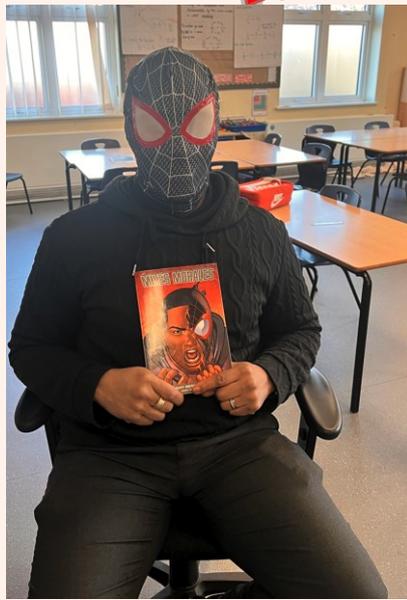
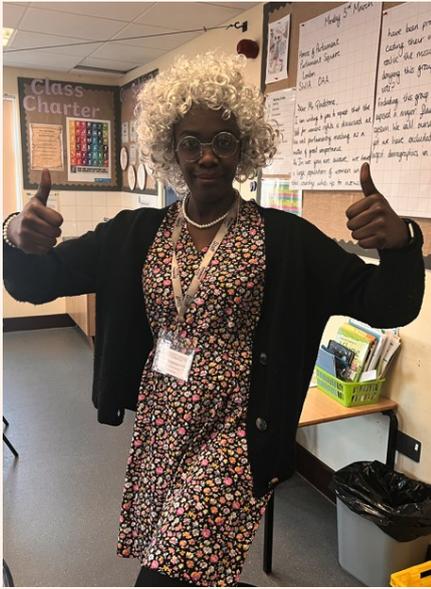
This newsletter is an opportunity for our youngsters to:

- ▶ Find out what is happening in Bexley for children and young people with special educational needs & disabilities (SEND)
- ▶ Ask any questions about SEN related matters
- ▶ Find out more about who can provide support
- ▶ Enable our young people to share their thoughts about SEN Support available in Bexley

Keep informed, get involved, tell us what you think, children and young people's views matter!



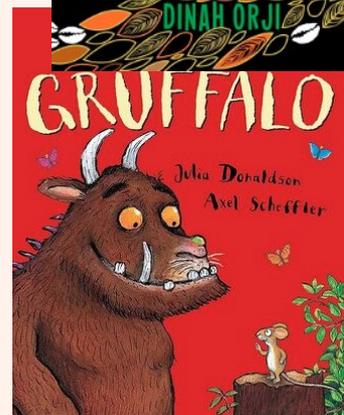
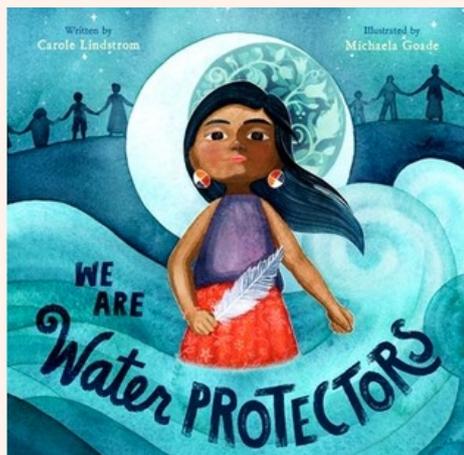
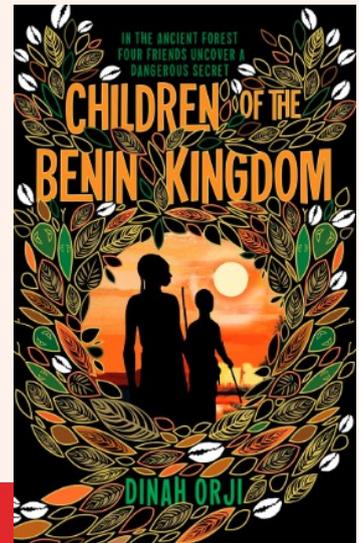
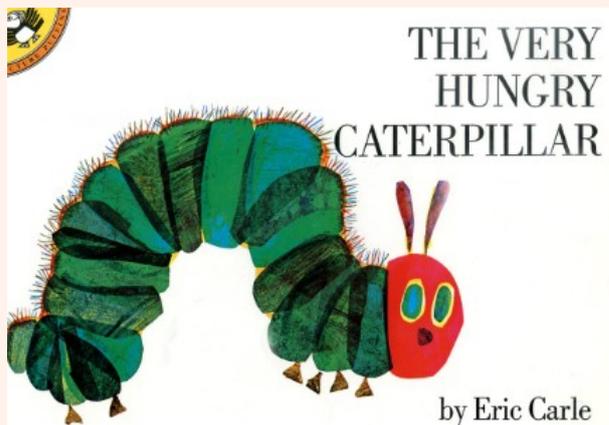
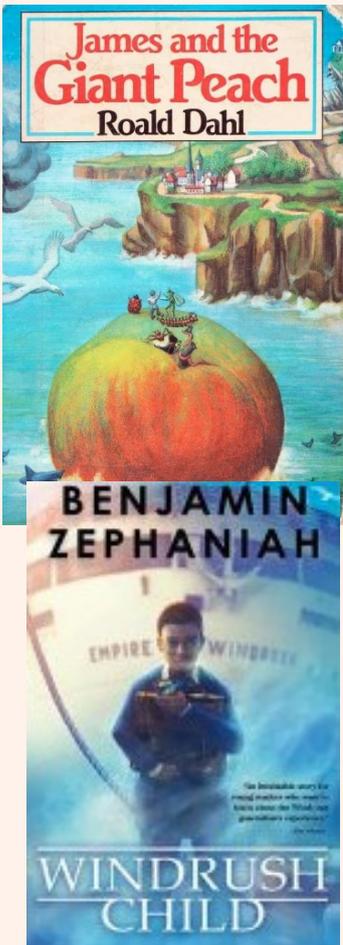
World Book Day



World Book Day



World Book Day



Y5/6 trip to Parliament



Red Nose Day





Castilion
Primary School

A message from our PE lead, Mr Cummins



patience



Team work

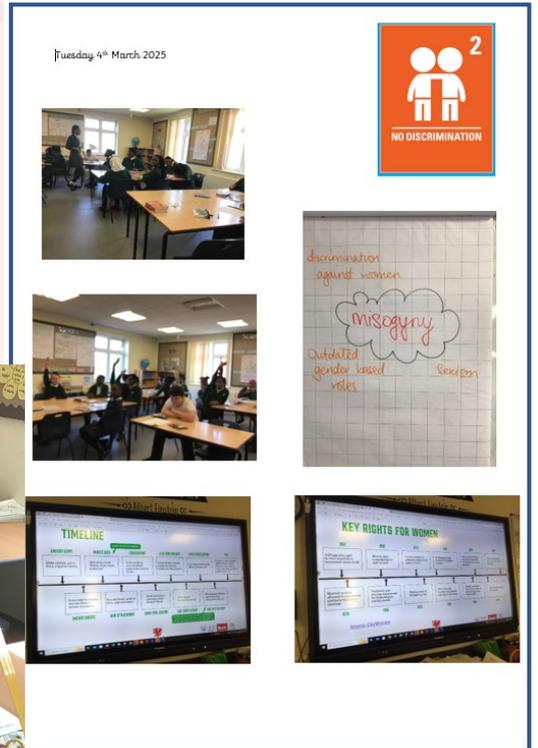
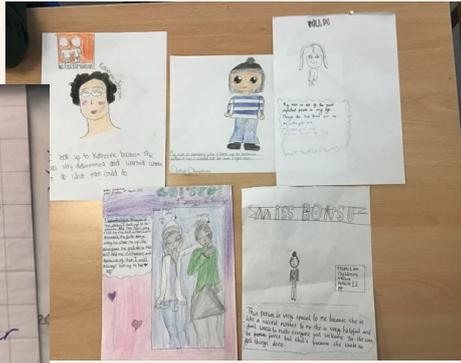
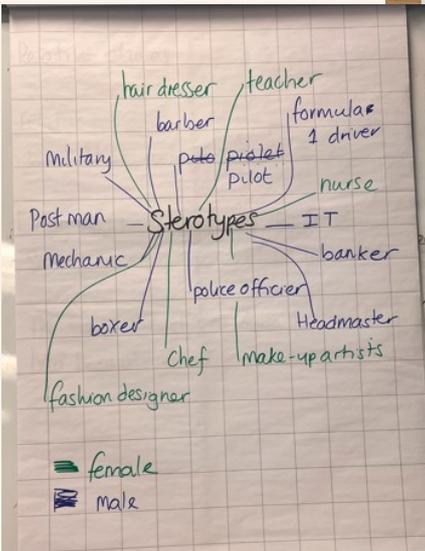
Engage



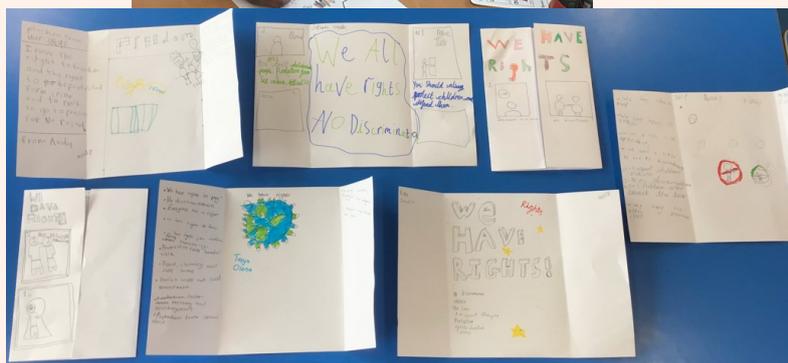


Rights Respecting School

This half term, the children have been exploring the articles below and have produced some fantastic out-generated from class



17
ACCESS TO INFORMATION



2
NO DISCRIMINATION

29
AIMS OF EDUCATION

31
REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS



Castilion
Primary School

Learning at Castilion this term

Reception

This term the children in EYFS have enjoyed learning about our topic 'Growing'. The children have had the opportunity to prepare their own garden, grow their own beans as well as visiting Morrisons to look at the different varieties of fruit and vegetables available. The children have also looked at ways in which we can stay healthy; they learnt about the importance of sleep and a good diet and were





Castilion
Primary School

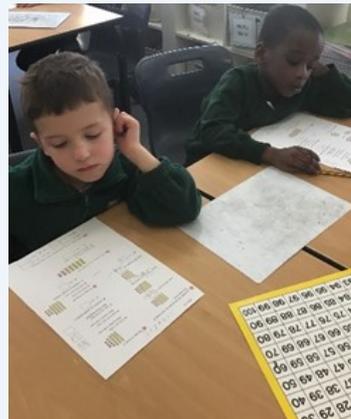
Learning at Castilion this term

Year 1/2

As part of our Science focus on this term children create simple food chains having learnt about the food chain and how each creature is dependent on the order to keep the chain intact. They understood that plant will usually be at the start of the food chain.



This term one of our Maths topic has been base 10 and subtracting 2digit numbers. Children practised subtracting using base 10 (Not across 10) to subtract two 2-digit numbers on tens and ones mats. Children learnt to subtract the ones first and then





Castilion
Primary School

Learning at Castilion this term

Year 3/4

In science we have been looking at the dangers of electricity as well as building functional circuits. The children have learnt about what makes a good or bad circuit and things such as insulators and conductors which can effect how a circuit functions.



We have had an outdoor PE unit of cricket with a coach this term. The children have really enjoyed learning the rules. We will be playing in a cricket tournament against other schools in the near future.



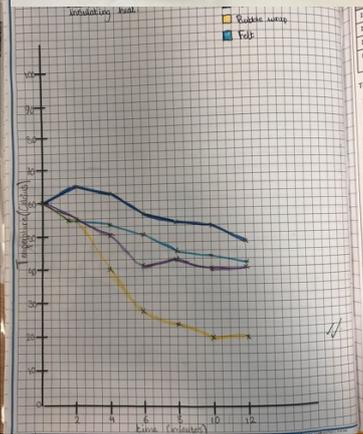


Castilion
Primary School

Learning at Castilion this term

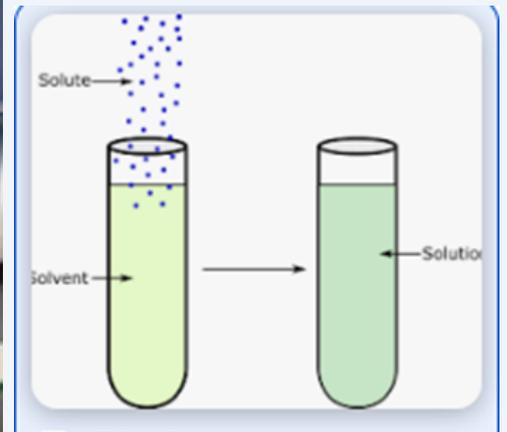
Y5/6

In science, children in Y5/6 have been exploring different materials and their properties.



The children investigated which materials were the best insulators of heat

Testing solubility



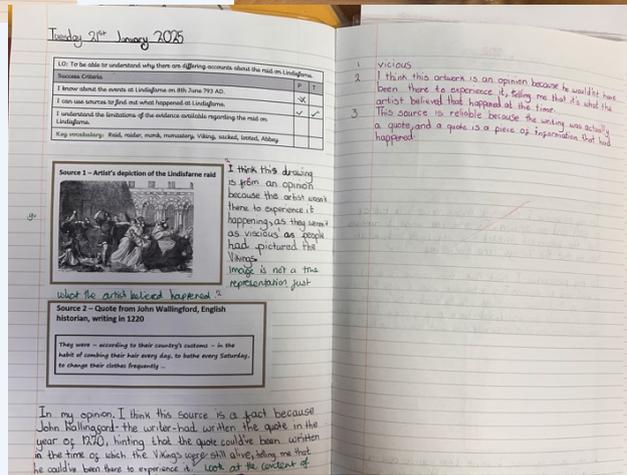
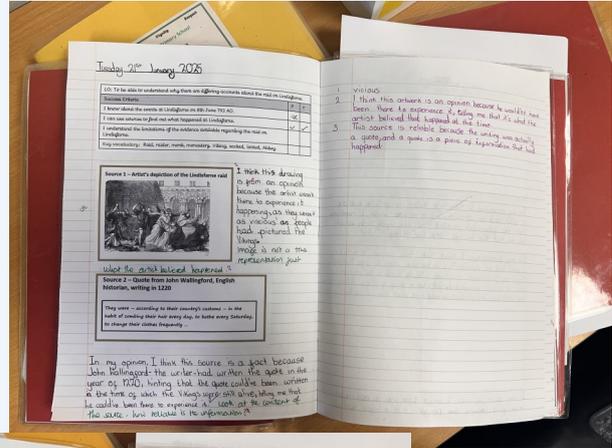
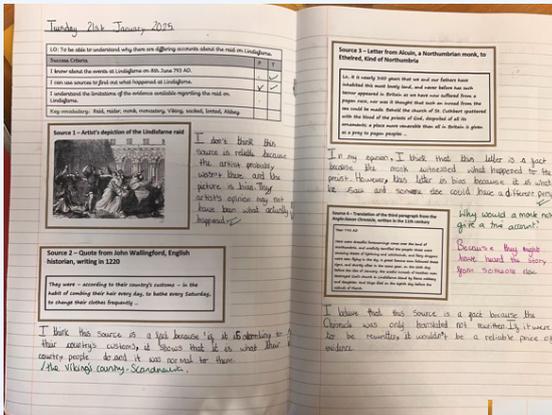


Castilion Primary School

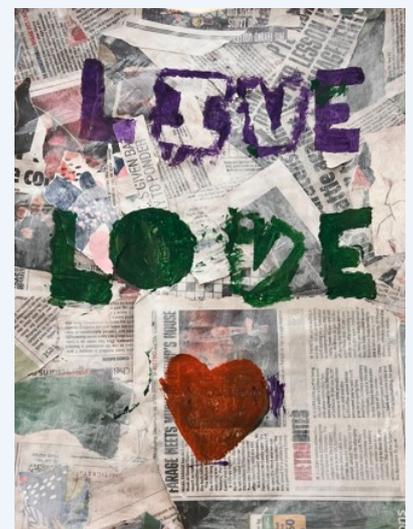
Learning at Castilion this term

Y5/6

In history, the children have been learning about the Viking invasion and whether they would do anything for money



In Art, the children worked to produce their activism posters. Here are some examples of the posters they made.

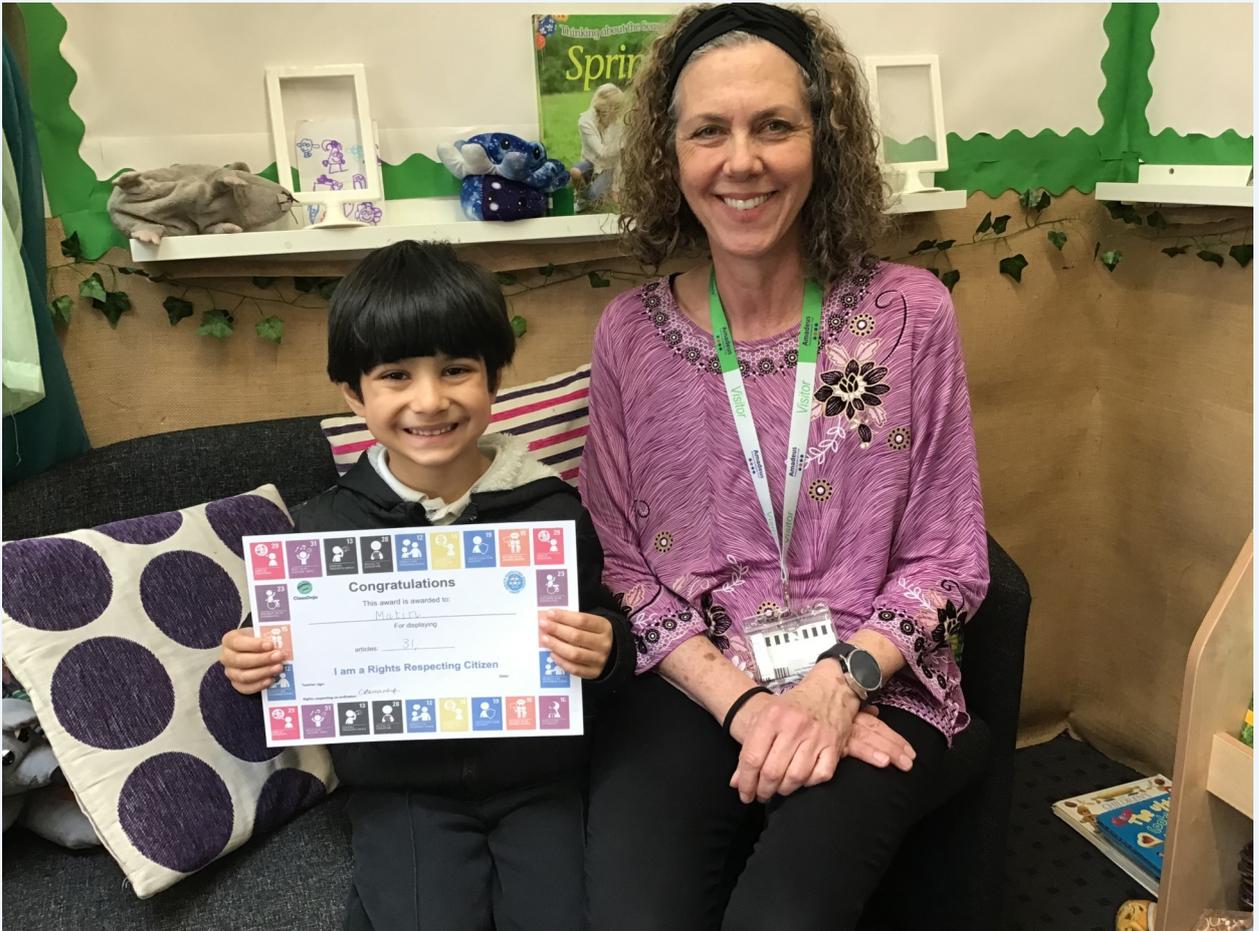




Castilion
Primary School

Rights Respecting Award

Reception



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for Spring 2





Castilion
Primary School

Rights Respecting Award

Year 1/2



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for Spring 2



Amadeus
Primary Academies Trust



Castilion
Primary School

Rights Respecting Award

Year 3/4



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for Spring 2



Amadeus
Primary Academies Trust



Castilion
Primary School

Rights Respecting Award

Year 5/6



Congratulations to our Rights Respecting Citizens for Spring 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

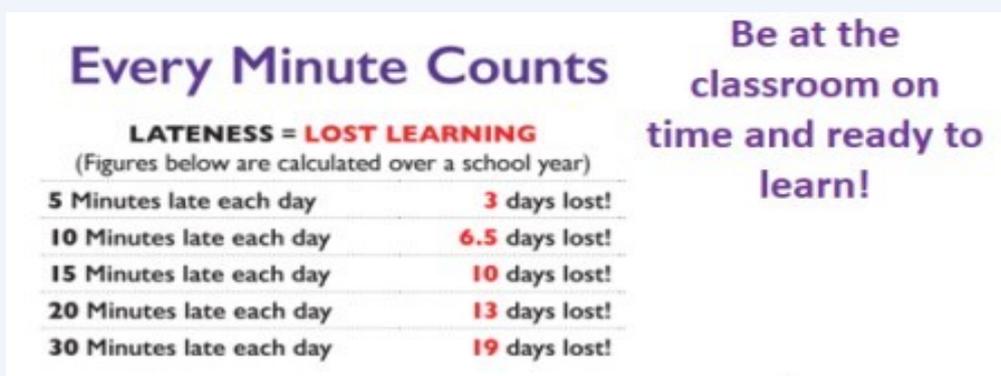


Under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons. From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

<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 %
YR	93.6
Y1/2H	88.3
Y1/2K	95.5
Y1/2T	95.5
Y3/4Ca	98.2
Y3/4Cu	96
Y3/4I	95.9
Y5/6AO	96.7
Y5/6B	94.9
Y5/6J	95.7



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>

