



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Inset days (no pupils in school):

Thursday 21 December 2017

Monday 23 July 2018

Last day Autumn 2 Term:

Wednesday 20 December 2017

First day of Spring 1 Term:

Thursday 4 January 2018

Half term:

12-16 February 2018

Special points of interest –

- Yr 6 Living Rainforest Trip -
Tuesday 23 January 2018



Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill Primary School

I would like to say thank you to all of you for your support throughout what has been a very busy term and for your support and understanding with regards to the parking difficulties. The school Christmas performances have been amazing and I'm so impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment from the pupils and staff to make this happen. We have an exciting 2018 to come and with the building extension starting in Spring, it's going to be another busy term! Our school continues to be heavily oversubscribed with many families on the waiting list eager to join us.

New Arrivals –

We are delighted to welcome three new outstanding teachers who will be joining the team in September 2018, Albie Barraclough, Maisie Austin and Olivia Edwards. They are all excellent candidates who share the CHPS ethos and drive for excellence.

May you all have a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from the all the team.

John DF Martin—Headmaster

Individual Achievements

Our very own glitter ball girls!

Grace E, Lily-Belle G, Rosalie G, Lily K (Yr 4) and her sister Phoebe competed in the All England Finals for Rock and Roll and Freestyle at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool on the 25th and 26th November. Dancing brilliantly in front of thousands of people, in some very tough categories - Solo Rock and Roll, (3-5yrs and 6-8yrs) Rock and Roll Pairs (7-9yrs) and Freestyle Pairs (6yrs and under) all the girls achieved a Top 30 place in their respective categories! Keeeeeep dancing girls you're amazing.





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School Trips/Events

Year 1 Minstead Trip

The children had a great day exploring their surroundings. We crossed the river in our wellies, looked at the village and explored the study centre. We even created herb cocktails and the children had such fun!





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Zig Zag Road Safety Project

Rooksdown's new traffic calming measures are now in full 'flight' with Basil the Bird helping to introduce the project to the children at CHPS Rooksdown.

We have also introduced the use of the Kiddie Cones which is a pilot in Hampshire. We have received such positive feedback from parents, children and the local community regarding our new Kiddie Cones safety signs. With them being so unique and eye-catching, we have been contacted by other education settings inquiring how to purchase them.



Parking

Can we please reiterate the importance of sensible parking at Rooksdown during school drop off and pick-ups? Please be considerate to other road users and pedestrians during this busy time as we have received numerous complaints and a few near misses.

Unfortunately we have now received a complaint from the Rooksdown Medical Practice. Their letter wanted to highlight that parents of CHPS are using the surgery's patient car park for both morning and afternoon drop-offs, which is preventing staff and users of the surgery and pharmacy from parking. Can we please ask parents not to use the surgery car park for daily school runs as it is NHS property. Thank you.



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Flying Pizza Company

Thank you to Flying Pizza Company and their Christmas Production of Treasure Island. The children really enjoyed the performance.



Year R Nativity play

What budding stars we have at Rooksdown. Thank you to everyone for all their creativity, support and enthusiasm to make this such an amazing performance.



Rooksdown Christmas lunch

Everyone worked together to make the Christmas lunch such a huge success. The children ate so well and enjoyed the treat of pulling their crackers and being served by the teachers!





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Food bank donations- thank you from Basingstoke Food bank



Basingstoke Foodbank would like to thank

Castle Hill Primary

for your generous donations of food
this Harvest weighing 375.54 kgs
which is equal to 894 meals!

From January to November 2017, with your help, we have fed
3,120 people of whom 968 were children.

We are currently distributing an average of 2.8 tonnes of food
per month to people in crisis in the Basingstoke and Deane
Region.

Christmas Jumper Day



This year for our Christmas Jumper & Mufti Day, the £1 donation went to two charities, Save the Children and Anna's Challenges.

Anna's Challenges is a charity set up for children with Cystic Fibrosis and raises funds to help purchase equipment that the CF team at Basingstoke Hospital doesn't currently have. Anna in Year 5 was diagnosed with CF at four weeks old and her family have raised money for Ipads for G floor, educational laptop, nurses, physio's and decorated the Assessment room to name but a few!

Thank you everyone for your contributions you raised **£323.00** over both sites!



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Governor News

We're pleased to announce that Mrs Tracey Desjardins has joined our Governing Body as a Parent Governor. Tracey has been working within the justice system for over 16 years and will bring many talents to our outstanding board.

Starting School in September 2018

If your child was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 they will be due to start school in the next academic year, beginning September 2017. Online applications are open, please visit <http://ww3.hants.gov.uk/education/> admissions for further information. The closing date for applications is **15th January 2018**.

Important Social Media Advice for Parents

With the Christmas holidays approaching and the prospect of children perhaps receiving digital media as a gift in some shape or form – tablets and gaming consoles, for example – we thought it would be an appropriate time to remind you about the responsible use of such devices. Please click on this link to find out some useful advice:

http://www.castlehillprimary.net/web/importance_of_online_safety/322756

Fundraising Friends News



**URGENT REQUEST:
WITHOUT YOU WE CANNOT BUILD OUR BATTLE PLAN
FOR SCHOOL DISCOS, FAYRES, RAISE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL
TRIPS OR EQUIPMENT.**

Please come in and ask about joining our new Fundraising team (however much time you can give), we really do need volunteers or helpers to run school events.

Volunteering to Help in School

At various times of the year, we ask for volunteers to help in school e.g. with school trips or reading. In order to help, volunteers may need to undergo a DBS check and complete the forms in our Volunteers Pack. If you think you would like to help this year please come into the school office or email admin@chis.net for more information. Please note that it is the school's policy not to place volunteers in their own child's year group.



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Help raise money for OUR school!

http://www.castlehillprimary.net/web/fundraising_opportunities/199148

Happy School Bag

Thank you so much for your contributions, we collected 88kg worth £57.20. Our next date is **Tuesday 20th February** so good chance to have a clear out after Christmas. Thank you again!



Tesco F&F Online Uniform

We have signed up to Tesco's F&F embroidery uniform service. To order through Tesco use this link [Tesco Uniform](#) and select Castle Hill Primary School; by doing so CHPS will benefit from a **5% cash donation, as well as you earning Clubcard points.**

Invite a friend to easyfundraising & raise up to £4 bonus

Double Donation Week has started, making today the perfect time to ask you to raise donations for Castle Hill Primary School - Basingstoke. Not only will they raise doubled donations, you'll earn up to a **£4 bonus donation*** for your cause for every friend that registers before midnight on Christmas Eve and raises a donation through easyfundraising. Hurry! Share your unique referral link today using your ready-made tools below and spread the word.

Your unique referral link to copy and paste:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/39CVHU/46J2OY>

We're so pleased with the results so far this month. We've now raised **£100.89** with an additional 27 supporters for the school. Keep shopping and think of us!





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Afterschool Art Club

Art Classes this term has seen our young artists flourish during the after school art sessions. As a practising artist and teacher I have been amazed at the enthusiasm shown by all the students. They are so keen to try new techniques and apply their skills when creating distinctive art of their own. Alongside developing their creative talents we have had lots of laughs and happy accidents! Blow painting was particularly interesting! I was very pleased that some of the children were inspired to go and visit the Turner Exhibition at the Willis Museum in town after studying his watercolour techniques in one of our sessions. I hope you enjoy looking at some of our artistic adventures this term by Paula Preston.



Afterschool Ballet

The girls performed beautifully in their end of season ballet show as part of the Aggy Gray School of Ballet. Well done to Leony, Evie C, Isabel, Evie F, Jessica, Amelia, Siddhi, Chloe, Jenna and Alissa.



School Payments

As a cashless school, we ask for your support in making your payments for trips in advance online via Scopay. If you are unable to access online payments or have lost your online code please speak to the Admin staff for assistance.

School Meals

If your child has been diagnosed with a food allergy and requires a special school meal, please ensure you request a form from the school office which will need to be returned with a letter from your GP or hospital dietician. This will allow HC3S to prepare a special menu for them. Until such time as this has been done the kitchen is unable to supply a meal for your child.



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Claiming Free School Meals

If you think your child might be eligible for free school meals please contact the school office, **even if they are in Foundation or Key Stage 1**, as they may be eligible for other opportunities such as free milk, after school clubs or activities at a discounted rate or free of charge. We can do a quick, simple check on your behalf that only requires your date of birth and National Insurance number. As part of the 'Pupil Premium' initiative, additional financial support is also available for the sons and daughters of service personnel. In order for us to receive these additional funds we request that if either parent is a member of the armed forces, you contact the school office.

NUT ALLERGIES

Please be aware that Castle Hill Primary School has a complete ban on any food products containing nuts. Unfortunately this includes sweets for birthdays which cannot be handed out in the classroom. We have children who will be seriously ill just by being in close proximity to anyone who has eaten nuts or nut products. Please be considerate when sending in snacks or packed lunches, we are a no nut school.



Healthy Snacks/Lunch boxes

Just a reminder that we really want to promote healthy eating at school so ask that you send your child to school with a **healthy snacks** in their lunchboxes.

Please read Mrs Arnold's (Lunchtime Lead) message below for information and ideas:

"As you are all hopefully aware Castle Hill Primary School is a 'nut free' school. We have a complete ban on any food products containing nuts. We have children who will be seriously ill just by being in close proximity to anyone who has eaten nuts or nut products. We as a school take children's allergies and dietary requirements very seriously.

In relation to this, I thought it might be useful to suggest a few lunch box ideas for a healthy nut free lunch. For example, an alternative to crisps could be popcorn or rice cakes, these can come in a variety of flavours. A substitute for sliced bread could be wraps, bagels or pitta bread. Again these come in a range of varieties. Lunch box snacks could include raisins, fruit pots, yogurts, jelly pots, dairylea dunkers, malt loaf, tea cakes, vegetable sticks and dips...there are so many to list them all!

If you do have access to the internet then these two websites are fantastic for healthy lunch box suggestions. They include recipes and visual pictures as well as a huge range of ideas.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/>

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support with keeping Castle Hill Primary School both healthy and nut free."



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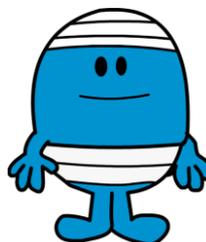


Office Messages

Please help us as much as you can by delivering home time messages, letters, trip slips etc. directly to the **class teacher**. After school is preferable or via your child's planner wherever possible – the children love having the responsibility of bringing these to the school office. If you do need to phone during the school day, please do so by 12:30pm if possible, so that a note can be put in the class register. Please feel confident to leave a message on the answerphone – if staff are attending to first aid, we can't always reach the phone in time but messages are checked regularly.

Medicine Reminder: http://www.castlehillprimary.net/web/medicines_and_illness/279182

- First Aid - If your child hurts themselves he/she will go to the first aider on the playground, classroom or to the medical room. Minor injuries are treated and if the first aider thinks you need to be informed e.g. they have bumped their head, the child will bring home a bump note and you will receive a text message. If there is anything more serious you will receive a phone call. This is standard school procedure.
- A reminder to parents that we cannot give medicine to pupils (we cannot administer aspirin or ibuprofen) unless prescribed by a doctor and signed in by a parent. Pupils may not keep medicines in their bags to self-administer. A parental agreement form found at Reception or is available on the school website
- We have had some cases of head lice and ticks reported. Could we please ask that you check your family at least once a week to ensure early detection
- If your child has been sick we ask that they do not return to school until 48 hours after they were last sick.



General Reminders

Bad weather

We thought it would be helpful to remind you of the procedure for emergency school closures. A decision to close the school is based on a risk assessment taking into consideration the conditions at school and the health & safety of the pupils and staff on their journey to school. The Local Authority is very conscientious about providing advice on weather conditions in advance where possible and on the morning of a potential emergency closure we usually begin gathering information about the weather and travel conditions at 5 a.m. The dilemma we have is to make a decision early enough to be helpful, but not so early that it's the wrong one because conditions change i.e. that a decision to close the school is made, only for the snow to disappear or, open the school but the weather deteriorates and we struggle to get everyone home safely. We know how helpful it is for you to be informed of any different arrangements as soon as possible, particularly if you are a working parent. You can access information about emergency closures by:

1. Checking the school website at <http://www.castlehillprimary.net/web>
2. Listening to Radio Solent, or Wave 105 and
3. Checking the HCC website on <https://www.hants.gov.uk/education/schoolclosures/>

The **best** source of information is probably the school website because it is unique to our school and will receive less traffic. The HCC website is informative, but remember that parents of children in schools across all of Hampshire may be trying to access the site.



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Holiday requests - Please be advised that Hampshire County rules state that holidays in term time **cannot be authorised**.

Attendance at School

Please ensure that the school office is aware of any pupil absences from school. All absences from school must be recorded in the register which is a legal document. If no reason is given for a child's absence, the absence will be recorded as Unauthorised. Absence Line: - 01256 473777, option 1. Please inform the school before 9.30am if your child is absent from school.

Smoking– Guidelines from HCC indicate that there should not be smoking of any kind (including e-cigarettes) on the school premises. Guidelines from HCC indicate that dogs should not be brought onto the school premises or grounds including the drive at the front of the school.

Lunches/Kit – Can you please make sure that your child brings everything they need for their day in school, including lunches, musical instruments and kit for clubs. Thank you.

Collection arrangements – when calling to arrange a change of collection for your child please press **Option 2** to leave a message with child's name, class and new arrangements. The Admin team will collate all messages and deliver to the relevant teachers before the end of day.

Weather – As the weather is so changeable please ensure your child brings in a coat into school.

P.E – If your child needs to be excused from their P.E lesson please give a note to the class teacher in the morning.

Jewellery - For Health and Safety reasons, children may not wear earrings or other jewellery to school.

Lost Property - Lost property will be kept in a box between the sliding doors near reception. Please check as anything not claimed by the end of every half term will be washed and sold by the Friends of Castle Hill or donated to a local charity shop.



On behalf of the team we would like to thank you for all your cards and gifts and we wish you all a safe and happy Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing you all back in the New year.

John DF Martin - Headmaster

Calendar Dates: <http://www.castlehillprimary.net/web/calendar/150465>

Please see below for a reminder on dates. New dates or amendments are highlighted in red.

December 2017					
Tuesday	19 th	12:00 – 13:00	Christmas Lunch	Rooksdown	All
Tuesday	19 th	Lower School 16:00 -17:30 Upper School 17:45 – 19:00	Christmas Disco	Greenbank	All
Wednesday	20 th	12:00 -13:00	Christmas Lunch	Greenbank	All
Thursday	21 st	All Day	Inset Day	Both sites	All
Friday – Wednesday	22 nd – 3 rd Jan	All Day	Christmas Holiday	Both sites	All

January 2018					
Thursday	4th	All Day	Back to school for Spring 1 Term	Both sites	All
Tuesday	23 rd	All Day	Year 6 Living Rain Forest trip	Greenbank	Year 6