



## Headteacher Newsletter

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

# Castle Camps C. of E. Primary School

Church Lane, Castle Camps, Cambridge CB21 4TH

Website: <https://www.castlecampsschool.co.uk/>

Telephone: 01799 584 270

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a pleasant summer. It is wonderful to see everyone back in school – there is a lovely atmosphere and much excitement for the term ahead. Our new starters are settling in well and I know our Year 6 children will become excellent buddies and role models for the Reception children. All the children are looking very smart in their new uniforms – thank you for supporting this.

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the wonderful gifts, cards and kind words we received at the end of last term. After such a busy and exciting year, we greatly value your thoughtful words and appreciation. Thank you so very much.

Kind regards,  
Miss Alexandra O'Connor  
Headteacher

### New Staff Members

We are delighted to welcome Mr Dan Williamson (Rabbit Class Teacher and Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Katrina Coxall (Hedgehog Class Teaching Assistant) to our staff team. Please take time to introduce yourself to Mr Williamson and Mrs Coxall on the playground, if you have not met them before. Mrs French has been in touch and is settling in very well at her new school. She sends her best wishes for the year ahead.

### Morning Helpers

Every morning, 4 pupils come out on the playground to support any children needing assistance. Our new helpers for 2025 are: Annie Rose, Sophie, Kian and Ivy. They can be easily spotted, as they all wear yellow "Helper" tabards (and big smiles).

### Reminder: Timings of the School Day

Please see the timings of the school day below:

#### Reception (following phased start) – Y6

Start time: 8.50am (Gates open at 8:40am and close at 8:50am)

Finish time: 3.20pm (Reception – Year 6)

#### Nursery (following phased start)

Our Nursery hours will remain the same (8:45am – 3:15am)

### Wraparound Provision at Castle Camps: Prestige Sports

We provide before and after school wrap around care.

Book your spot via: [www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com](http://www.prestigesportsdevelopment.com)

Trouble booking? Email: [bookings@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk](mailto:bookings@prestigesportsdevelopment.co.uk)

Prestige Office: 07494002352 (Office Open Monday -Friday 9am-3pm)

Tax Free Childcare: You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year). Follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare>

### Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> September

Staff Training day

### Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Children return to school.

Phased start for

Nursery/Reception

### Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September

Class Newsletters &

Information sent home

House Captains & School

Council Assembly

### Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September

4:15pm – CCPS v. Westfield

Greens Football Match

### Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September

7pm – FOCCS AGM

### Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Harvest Festival produce can

be sent into school

### Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September

Individual pupil photographs

### Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September

Badger Class Trip to

Colchester Castle

### Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September

9am – Deadline for Harvest

produce

10am - Harvest Festival

### Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September

4:15pm – CCPS v. Burton End

Football Match

### Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Audley End Trip (Hedgehogs,

Squirrels & Rabbits)

Deer Class Trip to West Stowe

### Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October

9am – Reception Reading

Workshop for Parents

### Y2 SingFest at Linton Village

College – 9:15am – 11:30am

### Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October

4:15pm – CCPS v. Clements

## Courageous Advocacy Award

### What is Courageous Advocacy?

Courageous Advocacy refers to the act of speaking out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard. Speaking out, at whatever level this takes place, requires an element (and sometimes a great deal) of courage. Becoming a courageous advocate for change, therefore, must involve **being informed about an issue** and it **must move beyond simply knowing, to saying and doing**.

Each term, we will select a pupil who has been an outstanding advocate for change.

### Previous award winners for 2024-25

James S	James raised awareness of Motor Neurone Disease, by giving a short presentation to his class and completing the Three Peaks Challenge (in aid of MND research).
Kian G	Kian wrote to King Charles to explain his concerns around pollution and de-forestation. He received a letter back from the palace thanking him and offering encouragement to further his work.
Jessica E	During COVID, Jessica became concerned about the impact of littering on the environment. As a response, she became very pro-active in keeping her local community litter free. Jessica continues to care passionately about keeping our green spaces clean and protecting wildlife from litter. In a whole school assembly, she reminded the children how litter severely harms wildlife through ingestion, entrapment and injury.

We are looking for nominations for the Courageous Advocacy Award (Autumn Term 2025). **If your child feels strongly about an issue and has been pro-active in advocating for change, please email the office, outlining their work.** We feel it is important to consider their views and acknowledge their efforts.

### Phonics/Reading Workshops for Parents (EYFS)

Mrs Sterecki will be holding a Reading Workshop for parents on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October at 9am. Details will be sent home to Reception parents shortly.

### Harvest Festival – Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September

This year, we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September with a special service in the Hall at 10am. Harvest is a good opportunity to think of the needs of others, so on that day and during the week, we will be collecting food donations for the Haverhill Food Bank, which supports local families in need. **Please could non-perishable food items be brought into school and donated between Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September and Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September (by 9am).** Although all non-perishable items are gratefully received, the Foodbank publishes a regular update of items which are urgently needed, so please check the link below:

[https://www.reachcp.org.uk/Articles/562720/Reach\\_Haverhill/Want\\_to\\_Help/Food\\_needs.aspx](https://www.reachcp.org.uk/Articles/562720/Reach_Haverhill/Want_to_Help/Food_needs.aspx)

Thank you, in advance. We look forward to welcoming back a representative from Haverhill Food Bank this year, to talk to the children about how our donations will be used to support others in the community.

### Y6 Residential to Thorpe Woodlands 2026

We have booked the Y6 residential to Thorpe Woodlands for 2026. The dates are: 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026. We will send out details in the next couple of weeks.

### Reception Places 2026

We will soon be releasing dates for our Open Mornings and school tours for new parents. Further details to follow.

### Polite Reminders

Although parents/carers are aware of our expectations regarding conduct on/around the school site, please ensure other adults who may drop off/collect your child/children, are also informed.

- Please park legally and considerately.
- Although we love animals, dogs are **not** permitted within the school grounds. Thank you.