



# Headteacher Newsletter

Friday, 19<sup>th</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,

It has been such a busy start to the term, but we are all excited to be back and the children are working hard.

We have experienced several technical issues with Bromcom and Google Classroom, not to mention some frustrating powercuts, but hopefully these problems are being resolved. In addition, at the beginning of term, our school website migrated from Primarysite to Juniper. This means that your online diaries will no longer be synced to the new website calendar. We are addressing this with Juniper later today, but in the meantime, the new dates can be seen on the website under *Upcoming Events* and on our newsletters.

Please accept my best wishes for the week ahead.

Kind regards,  
Miss Alexandra O'Connor  
Headteacher

### New School Councillors

We are delighted to announce our new Councillors for 2025-26.

Squirrels	Rabbits	Badgers	Deer
Olive Theo	Ethan Ellie	Nancy Riley	James Kian

### 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>

### Open Classrooms – Y1-6 (Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September)

We are encouraging parents to drop in to meet their child's teacher on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September. An email was sent home earlier this week.

Unfortunately, Miss Rankine (Deer Class Teacher) is currently unwell, but parents of children in this class are still welcome to attend if they wish.

### FOCCS AGM

Thank you to everyone that was able to attend the Friends AGM last night and to all those who have supported our events this year. I am very pleased to announce the following new committee for 2025-26

**Chair: Debbie Lansdell**

**Treasurer: Tracy Harris**

**Secretary: Kirsty Marchesi**

**Staff Representative: Katrina Coxall**

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

Harvest Festival produce can be sent into school

### Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Open Classroom event (Y1-6)  
3pm – 3:45pm

### 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

### Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October

Parents' Evening

### Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Parents' Evening

### Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> October

Half Term

### Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> November

3pm – 5pm - Autumn Party at the Village Hall

Thank you to Alison Mansfield for her work as Treasurer and for preparing the end of year Treasurer's report. FOCCS work incredible hard to raise money and run events for the school. Please check the website calendar for this term's events.

### 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)

### Courageous Advocacy Award Autumn 2025

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.

This term we have two winners: **Emelia and Hollie:**

- Emelia is raising money (and growing her hair) for the Little Princess Trust. It costs The Trust £700 to provide one child or young person with a real hair wig. Emelia intends to donate her hair and is hoping to raise the £700 for her ponytail to be made into a wig.
- After experiencing a family bereavement, Hollie wanted to raise awareness for Cancer Research. Hollie has been making and selling key rings. So far she has made £70 for Cancer Research UK.

### 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.

### Reception Places 2026 & In-year Spaces

We have now released dates for our Open Days. These are advertised on the school website and Facebook. If you know of any families who are looking for a place, either for Reception 2026 or an in-year transfer, please encourage them to contact the Office. We would be very grateful if parents could share our Facebook post on their social media.

### Class Newsletters & What My Child Will Be Learning

These are now available on the school website. The exception to this is Deer Class. Miss Rankine will send these out on her return to school.

### New School Menu Autumn 2

This afternoon, the Office Staff and I met with Aspens to look at the new menu for after half term. This will be sent home ASAP. We encourage the children to have a cooked lunch during the colder months, but there will be a range of options for the children to choose from.