



Dear Parents and Carers,

What an amazing first term we had! We saw some fabulous topics taught across the school with all our children so excited by their learning. Teachers carefully planned to make sure we were supporting your children as individuals and helping them to be the best they could be, and this will continue into term 2.

The energy in school has been fantastic and I loved to hear the children talking about their learning and growing in confidence every day. The encouragement we have received from parents and carers has been wonderful and the difference you are making by supporting your child's education is invaluable.

Parent/carer meetings were a huge success, I hope you all had a chance to discuss your child with their teacher, if not please do contact us. Remember we are always here to help to support you and your children so please feel free to contact either myself or the class teacher at any time. My door is always open.

This year the Christmas production will include EYFS, year 1 and year 2. We are really looking forward to inviting you into school at this special time of year. We will also be having our Christmas church service, Christmas disco and Christmas parties.

Castor bank and shop will be developing and will be transforming into a wellbeing hub which the children are really excited about. The children will be able to exchange their shooting star tickets for prizes on a Friday or save them for a bigger reward. We will also be putting the lost property outside the bank and shop each day so that it is easier for you to retrieve missing items. In the next few weeks, we will also be developing a book borrow corner in there. I will add my box of books so that these are available for you to borrow each day.

Next week Friends of Castor will be running a "Loose Change" competition all week and the house that collects the most money will be able to enjoy a special activity, this will be chosen by the children.

As part of our continued efforts to raise the standards of Literacy in school, we are hoping to encourage parents, carers and grandparents to come into school and help pupils with their reading. Reading regularly to an adult has been shown to significantly increase the rate of progress that children can make with their reading. As there are many parents, carers and grandparents who bring your children to school, we believe there may be some who would enjoy coming in to listen to children read. Typically you would work one-to-one with a child, spending time talking about the book that they are reading and listening to them read. You would work with the same children each week getting to know them and watching them progress. Please contact me if you are interested in being involved in this.

### **Reminder about the Morning routine starting after half term:**

The school gates will open at 8.35am and will be closed at promptly 8.45am.

*"Let Your Light Shine"*



Once the children arrive at school via the gates, please leave them, and they will be able to walk straight into school by themselves. This means we can leave the doors open for the children to walk straight in. For the first few days, some children may feel apprehensive so there will be many adults at hand to help support and guide them into classrooms. The children will then stay in the classroom where there will be a teacher to greet them. Mrs Phillips, or another member of SLT, and Mrs Buttery will be standing at the gates to answer any queries, questions and take notes to pass on to the class teachers. The reason for this change is to help with parking, more one-to-one time in the morning for individuals and teachers, and to allow us to run the morning clubs on site.

### **PE Days for Year Groups:**

EYFS – Mondays and Tuesdays

Year 1 – Mondays and Tuesdays

Year 2 – Tuesdays and Thursdays

Year 3 – Wednesdays (swimming) and Thursdays

Year 4 – Mondays and Thursdays

Year 5 – Mondays and Tuesdays

Year 6 – Mondays and Thursdays

### **Below are some important dates for term 2:**

30<sup>th</sup> October- Term starts

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Year 3 Ancient Egypt Activity Day in School. Children encouraged to dress up in simple costumes (ParentMail already sent)

2<sup>nd</sup> November – KS2 Cross Country event at AMVC (teacher selected children) – parents/carers will have been informed by letter and ParentMail – packed lunch needed

3<sup>rd</sup> November – Year 3 visit to the Gurdwara Baba Sahib Ji Sikh Temple – packed lunch needed

9<sup>th</sup> November- Eucharist Service (AM)

10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance – Children may wear Scouting and Guiding uniforms to school

11<sup>th</sup> November – NHS Flu Immunisation

Week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> November – Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Please see information sent via ParentMail about this.

Please bring any festive 'shoe' boxes containing children's gifts into school for collection.

17<sup>th</sup> November- Children in Need (information to follow)

22<sup>nd</sup> November – Year 4 Sports hall Athletics event at AMVC – details to follow (late lunch)

30<sup>th</sup> November- Friends' Christmas Disco (after school)

12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch for Children (parents/carers of KS2 children need to order from The Farm Kitchen by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service (after school)

13<sup>th</sup> December EYFS & KS1 Christmas performance dress rehearsal

14<sup>th</sup> December EYFS & KS1 performance of their Christmas Play (PM)

15<sup>th</sup> December EYFS & KS1 performance of their Christmas Play (PM)

18<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Parties being held during the school day

19<sup>th</sup> December Church Service 9:30

20<sup>th</sup> December End of term

Finally, thank you for making me feel so welcome in my first term at Castor. I feel very privileged to be part of such a wonderful school and community.

Yours sincerely

***Mrs S Phillips***

Deputy Head

Teaching and Learning Lead