



# Castor Church of England Primary School

Stocks Hill, Castor, Peterborough Cambs PE5 7AY  
Telephone: 01733 380280

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Dear Parents,

Although it has only been a very short half-term, we seem to have squeezed a lot in to just 4 ½ weeks. The children's enthusiasm for their learning continues to impress me on a daily basis and I have seen some excellent pieces of written work through the school this term.

## Christian vision and values

This term we have worked with the children on embedding our new Christian vision. Test your child and see whether they can not only remember what it is, but also explain what it means to them and how they can relate to it. Our Christian vision is **'We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us'**

Each half-term we select a different Christian value, and this will be our focus. This half term we have taken the Christian value of 'forgiveness' and looked at how this relates to the parable of Zacchaeus and how he was forgiven by Jesus. We have considered how difficult it can sometimes be to forgive somebody, but tried to remember that if Jesus can forgive Zacchaeus and give him a second chance, then we hope that we are able to do the same in our own lives. Jesus forgiving Zacchaeus allowed Zacchaeus to put right what he had done wrong and become a better person. We also want to forgive others and give them a second chance.

Our Christian value for next half term will be 'Trust'.

## SATS

During these last two weeks the children in Year 2 and Year 6 have taken their statutory end of Key Stage assessments (SATS). Whilst we are not in a position to know the outcomes of these at present, what we can say is that every single child worked hard and gave them their best shot, and that is all we can ask of them. The children in Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their bowling trip, and the ice-creams will be enjoyed by Year 2 this afternoon in equal measure. Our thanks to Friends of Castor C of E school for funding these rewards.

## Castor Crew

As of September 2019, we will be increasing some of our prices for Castor Crew. For a morning session, the price will remain the same at £4. An evening session up to 5pm will cost £6, and up to 6pm will cost £9 (siblings £8). This is still very competitively priced and any increases have been kept to a minimum.

Those of you who are members of the Friends of Castor C of E Facebook page will have seen the poll that was there to gauge what interest there would be in a holiday club at the school. Expressions of interest have been encouraging and we hope to run this from October half-term onwards. We will write to you with more details in the new academic year. If you have not seen the poll and would like to register your interest, please email the school at [secretary@castor.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@castor.peterborough.sch.uk).

## Sponsorship

Friends of Castor C of E School have been successful in gaining sponsorship for two new football kits for our school teams. These kits will be sponsored by Halls Pharmacy and the Peterborough New Theatre. Our thanks go to these companies for their generous sponsorship and we look forward to sharing the new kits with you.

*"We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us"*



### Bank and Shop update

The final week of this half-term saw the shop hold a sale, with discounts of up to 20% on some items. This idea was proposed by the management team of the shop as a strategy for rotating round the stock. They even calculated all of the percentage decreases themselves. This is a fine example of how this initiative allows the children to apply their Maths skills in a real life context.

When the bank and shop first opened, it tended to be the case that the children would do particularly well in their spellings tests and times tables tests, and after a couple of weeks would spend the 4 or 5 Denarii that they had earned on a smaller gift. However, what we are now noticing is that more and more children are starting to see the benefits of forward planning and saving their Denarii. They are starting to understand that at the end of each month the interest rate (10%) will be applied to their account and that they will get rewarded for saving. We are getting more of the larger purchases and we have recently sold our first 'Castor Bears' (RRP is 25 Denarii). The drone is still the top prize to aim for and is currently priced at 100 Denarii. The Bank Manager reliably informs me that the total amount being held in the bank accounts across the school is 1,299D. This is incredible and shows how hard the children are working and how determined they are to save their money and earn the interest.

### Educational visits

Our Reception children visited Shepreth Wildlife Park earlier this week and had the perfect weather for it. Miss Abbott and Mrs Green felt that the children were impeccably behaved and are looking forward to seeing the writing that the children produce from the visit. Hands-on learning experiences like this really are an excellent stimulus for learning.

Earlier in the term, our Year 3 children visited Flag Fen as part of their Stone Age topic. The day was planned as a 'Survive or Thrive' day, with the various activities designed to give them a taste of Stone Age life and an insight as to whether they would have managed to survive within this period of history. The weather could not have been more different to the Reception trip, but the children were not downbeat about it and completely engaged in the day. Well done to all.

### Football

This week, we were invited to take part in a girls' football tournament at Peterborough United FC which thankfully took place on a gloriously sunny morning. The girls all played incredibly well and came top of their group, scoring 15 goals without conceding a single one; a fabulous achievement. Unfortunately, we lost a very closely fought battle 1-0, in the quarter finals. It was a pleasure to watch not only their continued support of one another throughout the morning, but also the dedication to succeed from each of them and the overall teamwork on display. Mrs Brant and I are immensely proud of them all and hope they are of themselves too.

One grandparent who accompanied the trip summed it up perfectly in his post-match comments - "They beat a number of much larger schools, some with four times the number of girls than our own. A remarkable achievement! As would be expected their behaviour was exemplary and they were excellent ambassadors for our school. Of particular note was their team spirit, they were clearly as one and their enthusiasm and energy was infectious."

### Swimming

Yesterday we were represented in the Peterborough Schools' Swimming Gala where we were placed a respectable 5<sup>th</sup>, with third place only achieving an additional 3 points. Mrs Dummigan, Father David and Mrs Brant were fortunate enough to attend the event with the team and, as always, our children made us enormously proud with their positive attitudes, determination and the enthusiastic manner in which they supported one another. A brilliant effort from you all, thank you!

### Cricket

Cricket East visited us to deliver a school assembly and some cricket sessions to our children, as well as a staff training session. This is a sport that we hope to see more of in school, and based on the talent seen on this day, one we could be quite good at!

May Day

Our May Day dancing this year will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm. We look forward to seeing you all there. Who will be wearing the spectacular Morris dancer outfit that the staff so kindly bought for me last year? Watch this space...

And finally...

Have a lovely break and enjoy the time with your families before the final half-term of the year.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Brompton  
Headteacher