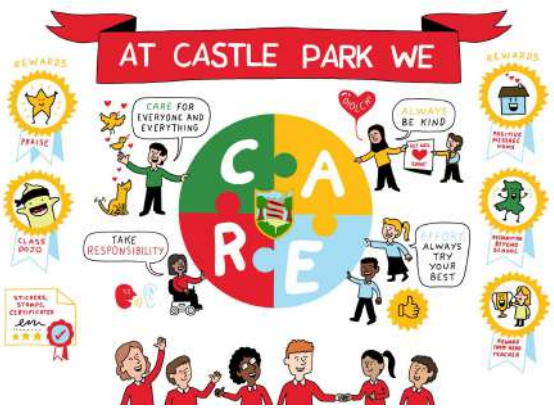
Castle Park Primary School
Church Road, Caldicot, NP26 4HN - 01291 420465
castleparkprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk - www.castleparkprimary.co.uk
Headteacher – Mrs H Wadsworth

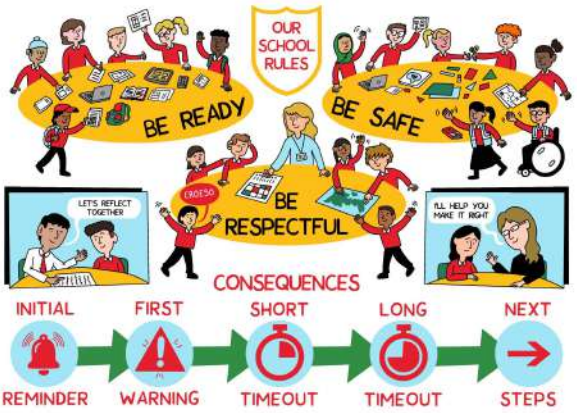
March 2026

Annwyl Parents, Carers and Friends,

It might have been a short half term but we have still managed to pack in all of our usual exciting and inspiring experiences, including Eisteddfod, World Book Day and STEM week. You can read all about these below.

This half term we have been thinking with the children how Castle Park children learn and behave. We have introduced the children to our updated **CARE** values and our school rules of **Ready, Respectful and Safe**. We have also been focussing across the school on our CPPS Language for Learning. You may have heard your children talking about being **inquisitive, persistent, collaborative, disciplined and imaginative.** Our children are building a great understanding of these big words and really thinking about ***how*** they learn as well as ***what*** they learn. You can find out more about all of this from your children and on our school website here.





I wish you a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you for a hopefully sunnier term on Monday 13th April.

Cofion Cynnes,

Mrs Wadsworth

Reception Cherry Class update:

This half term has been busy with lots of different celebrations. It started with Welsh week and St David's Day. The children created some beautiful daffodil collages and sang 'Heno Heno' at the Eisteddfod. We have been focusing on literature and developing a love of reading for pleasure. World Book Day was a day full of stories, the children loved having the older children come to class to read stories with them. We have focused on dragon stories in literacy, the children have drawn detailed dragon pictures in 'drawing club'. During STEM week we used the new Lego Spike kits to make a moving car. The theme this year was curiosity and we read the story 'The Curious Garden' and started to plant potatoes and strawberries in our garden. The children have loved getting to know Cherry and Willow, our Guinea Pigs and learning how to look after them, thinking about what they like to eat. We had another visit to Caldicot library and chose books to read back in class. We would also like to thank our families for joining us for our Book Trust Cymru event, wonderful dragons were made by all. We have had lots of new planters and a green house constructed in our garden ready for our 'In the Garden' topic next term.

Year 1 Willow Class update:

This half term we have continued our topic of 'On our Doorstep' where we have been looking at Caldicot in the past compared to now. We talked about how Caldicot has changed and spotted the difference between old and new photos of the village. We have lots to celebrate this term with St Davids day, World Book Day, World Maths Day and STEM week. For World Book Day we enjoyed sharing stories with Hazel Class and had a story read to us by the school council. During STEM week we made our own boats out of foil to see how many marbles the boat could hold before it sank and we followed instructions to make paper aeroplanes and tested them to see who's would fly the furthest. We also really enjoyed using the new LEGO Spike kits to make a moving swing with flashing lights and music. We have begun planting in the garden, we have started with potatoes and strawberries and we look forward to the Summer term when we will continue to grow fruits and vegetables linked to our summer term topic of 'In the Garden'.

<u>Year 2 and 3 update</u>:

We have had an incredibly busy and exciting half term, celebrating World Book Day, Saint David's Day, World Maths Day and STEM week. For Saint David's Day, we learned traditional Welsh country dances, which we thoroughly enjoyed performing in the school Eisteddfod. During our outdoor learning sessions, we have been planting sunflower seeds along with a variety of vegetables such as runner beans and peas. We are looking forward to watching them grow and develop over the Summer term. We also had great fun dressing up as our favourite book characters for World Book Day, we joined Holly class to read together and share some of our favourite stories. We had a visit from National Grid where we learnt about the safe use of electricity both at home and when we are playing outside. During STEM week we used our Lego Spike kits to build a cable car. We learnt a lot about working as a team in order to complete this task.

Y4/5 Hazel Class update:

Dosbarth Hazel continued the topic of *What on Earth is happening?* They took part in an amazing science investigation; to see what happens when you mix key ingredients in small containers. Put it like this, there were a few gasps as the lid blew off substantially! Pupils were enthused about the theme and raised many questions to research collectively / individually. The outcome of the careers' visit with Allen Lloyd culminated with some incredible photographs of nature, most within the local vicinity. The skill level of photography was high and even narrowing down the finalists was a challenge for us. Worthy winners all round and we appreciate the class's involvement. Technology wise, we have had a visit from the National Grid and use of Lego Spike - purposeful for the recent FaCe last week. They are just naturals at picking it up - future earthquake building-related engineers now an option.

World Book Day produced some varied outfits - always a pleasure to celebrate a real book these days, especially to our Year 1 class. The competition that week involved an element of art and we had come worthy winners - very creative characters indeed. In science week (STEM), the pupils investigated things like ecosystems, volcanoes and similar, including a culmination of their knowledge in quizzes. A career visit from a former firefighter turned scientist gave the pupils food for thought - Chris Pye. A session on the pupils' dreams and goals, and what skills they need to acquire to reach them, was a proud moment - we encourage them to come back and visit the school one day to showcase their talents.

Mother's day cards and the Eisteddfod brought out the creativity and linguistic talents of the class - it was a pleasure to see the class perform a 'call and response' song based on Wales.

What on Earth is happening? - Lego Spike - Earthquake

World Book Day - Reading with Y1

Y4/5 Holly Class update:

We started this half term with a week full of Eisteddfod entries—and wow, what a creative bunch you are! The quality of the poems the class wrote about their favourite place in Wales was extremely high, and many of the children even went back and redrafted their work two or three times to ensure it was perfect before writing the final version. The multimedia artwork they created was also extremely well planned and thoughtfully executed, resulting in some amazing final pieces—and a very messy classroom!

Holly Class has thoroughly enjoyed continuing with their topic, *What on Earth is happening?* We have independently researched and written volcano fact files, explored irreversible reactions through a geyser experiment (which was very, very fun), and created an earthquake simulator using the LEGO Spike kits. As part of STEM Week, we also used the LEGO Spike kits to create "Hoppers" and modify their legs to optimise it's movement. We then held a class hopper race!

We had lots of fantastic entries for the photo competition Allen Lloyd set for us, which made it really hard for him to pick a winner. Holly Class truly showed off their photography skills—so well done to everyone who entered!

I can't wait to see what next term brings—keep up the fantastic work, Holly Class!🙂

Year 6 Oak Class update:

Wow - what a busy short half term Year 6 have had, with Eisteddfod, World Book Day, Visits from The National Grid and Allen Lloyd and finishing off with our FACE event this week! To start the term we worked hard on our Eisteddfod entries. The pupils showed creativity and perseverance and produced entries to a very high standard, making it very difficult to decide on our winners.

We continued our topic of 'What on Earth is Happening' . The pupils engaged in science experiments showing curiosity throughout the lesson. Lego Spike has been a big favourite in Year 6 this half term, where pupils have learnt about coding. They enjoyed making Earthquake simulators, which were a big hit in showcasing during our FACE event.

As part of our collaboration with Caldicot School, Year 6 had the opportunity to attend the dress rehearsal of their school production 'Oliver' I think from the smiles and laughs and audience engagement, this was an enjoyable experience.

Apple Tree Class

Although it's been a short half term, it's been packed with events and activities! The term started with learning about St David's Day. The children made crafts related to welsh symbols and made their own welsh cakes. They also attended the Castle Park Eisteddfod, where the children enjoyed watching the performances by other members of the school.

Our text this term has been Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children enjoyed learning through lots of bear related activities. They retold the story of Goldilocks and the Three bears and learned about capacity by filling up bowls of porridge and sorting out the bowls for the bears. They also learnt how to make porridge so that it was 'just right' (not too hot and not too cold).

We finished the term with an Easter egg Hunt in the garden and it was lovely to have mums and dads join us for our stay and play event.

Coming up next term:

Friday April 17th	STEM Person of the Week presentation for Y3-6
Tuesday 21st April	Group of Y6 pupils to attend Newport Dragons Tag Rugby event
Friday 24th April	Y6 Water Safety event at Caldicot Leisure Centre
Friday 1st May	**TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED**
Monday 4th May	**Bank Holiday**
Monday 11th May - Wednesday 13th May	Y6 to Gilwern
Tuesday 19th May	School Council working with UpBeat Music to write school song
Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st May	Music Workshops for all pupils with UpBeat Music
Friday 22nd May	Y5 Playmaker event
Monday 25th May - Friday 19th May	***HALF TERM***

Training Days

2025-26	**2026-27**
Friday 1st May	Monday 1st September
Monday 20th July	Tuesday 2nd September
	Friday 5th February
	Thursday 6th May
	Monday 19th July
	Tuesday 20th July