



Castle Park Primary School
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Headteacher – Mrs H Wadsworth

July 2026

Annwyl Parents, Carers and Friends,

It's the end of another wonderful year at Castle Park Primary School. Today we say goodbye to our Y6 pupils who have been an absolute credit to our school in everything they have done and achieved this year and throughout their time at Castle Park. We are extremely proud of them and will be cheering them on as they embark on their next adventures.

This newsletter is packed with examples of the joy, energy and hard work which make every day special at Castle Park. It is a testament to the dedication of our staff and the amazing children, families and community that make up our school.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our parents, carers and friends for the huge support you have shown our school this year. We feel a great sense of pride in the partnerships we build with our families and know that this makes all the difference to our children.

I wish you all a wonderful summer filled with adventures and fun. We look forward to seeing you all back in September, when I expect you will be very glad to return your children to school!

Cofion Cynnes,

Mrs Wadsworth
Headteacher

Reception Cherry Class update:

We had a fabulous start to the half term with our trip to the Bristol Zoo project, the tropical house was a favourite. Thank you to the Friends of Castle Park for funding the bus for this trip. We have been busy bees learning all about minibeasts! This inspired lots of ideas and our big question for the term. Do caterpillars really turn into butterflies? We were able to find out by observing caterpillars in the classroom. We then learnt about the lifecycle of other insects and loved learning all about bees on world bee day. The children were amazing on sports day, behaving brilliantly and showed such a fabulous sporting spirit. They joined in with all activities across the day and cheered each other on. The children loved sharing the books they wrote with their families to round our topic off. Thank you to all of the families who were able to attend the session. It was lovely to be able to share our classroom and learning

with you. The children had a fabulous last week and had lots of fun at our class party, colour run and teddy bears picnic. The children have been an absolute pleasure to teach this year and we wish them all the best as they move on in their learning journey.



Year 1 Willow Class update:

What a fabulous half term Year 1 has had to finish off the school year. We started the term with a trip to Bristol Zoo Project with Reception and had a great time and especially loved seeing the bears and the wolves. Thank you to the Friends of Castle Park for paying for the coach to get us there. We have been continuing our topic of 'In the Garden' and have enjoyed seeing our vegetables and plants growing and have especially enjoyed tasting what we have grown. We loved the potato salad we made with potatoes and spring onions that we picked from the garden. We have been learning about the life cycle of different plants and animals and creating our own lifecycles. We particularly enjoyed looking at life cycles of the animals we saw at the zoo such as bears and snakes. We were very pleased to welcome you all to the school field last week to join in our forest school session and get an insight into what we do in our weekly forest school sessions. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching your children this year and I will miss them as they move on to Year 2. I look forward to seeing them flourish as they move through the school.



Year 2 update:

Year 2 has had a busy half term continuing with our topic 'Into the Unknown - Explorers and Inventors'. Our visit to 'We the Curious' encouraged and inspired us to ask questions. We loved exploring all the different exhibits but there was a special enthusiasm for the planetarium, where we explored space, focusing on different moons around the solar system.

We have continued to be busy in the garden, tasting our cucumbers, planting pumpkins and selling surplus vegetables. We look forward to watching our sunflowers bloom!

We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves when the Fire Service came in to speak to us. We learnt about fire safety, had the chance to sit in a fire engine and operate the fire hose!

following on from our learning about the Artemis II moon mission. We have also continued to put our sewing skills to the test, moving from practice to the real thing creating our very own hot air balloon cushions inspired by the Montgolfier brothers. In literacy we have been inspired by baby bear in our story 'Whatever Next' to create our own adventures. Where will your imagination take you ...? We finished off the year by becoming inventors of our own and designing our own machines. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach Year 2 this year and we wish them a fun filled summer holiday and all the best for Year 3.



Year 3 update:

This half term, Year 3 have continued our topic 'Into the Unknown - Explorers and Inventors'. One of the highlights was our trip to We The Curious, where the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the interactive exhibits. They showed fantastic curiosity throughout the day, asking thoughtful questions about space and the world around them. The planetarium show was a particular favourite. In Literacy, we have been writing biographies about David Attenborough. The children used their research skills to learn about his life and achievements. The children have continued with their swimming lessons and it has been lovely for Mrs Punshon to see their confidence and ability grow each week. As part of our topic, we learnt about the inventor Thomas Edison. We also carried out a science investigation into electrical circuits, exploring which materials conduct electricity. Year 3 also enjoyed taking part in Sports Day and showed great determination. It has been a pleasure teaching Year 3 again this year - they should all be very proud of the progress they have made, I certainly am. I hope the children enjoy a well deserved break over the summer holidays and I wish them all the very best moving on to Year 4.



Y4/5 Hazel and Holly Class update:

Hazel class have continued with their topic of Wellness Warriors and really focused on the power of sleep this half term. They've made sleep logs of hours slept each night and how their mood feels the next day as a result. They've reflected on both good and bad sleep habits and researched dreams and what happens when we sleep. In other topic work, art was a prominent feature and was linked to well-being and skills using watercolours. Additionally, both classes had a careers visit by Erica at MonLife who taught them Tai Chi and fitness drills. They were busy working hard to design their own warm ups to delight the parents at the FaCE Event, which was very well received. The visit to Caldicot Leisure Centre was a great success, with both classes intermingling in a pool inflatable session and undertaking basketball and / or tennis. A big 'shout out' to the leisure centre and associated staff for hosting the event!



In STEM, pupils have made The Hopper and adapted it to have a race. We thought longer arms would do the trick but some of them just went around in circles. In Maths, the pupils had a go at creating their own game and playing it in small groups.



Y5 STEM update:

A small team of Year 5 pupils represented Castle Park at a Lego Spike competition at Caldicot Comp. The pupils had to code and debug a driving base to move around a work mat and do various challenges. They tackled the day with gusto and did themselves proud.



What a fantastic final half term Year 6 have had to end their incredible learning journey at Castle Park. This term has been packed with exciting learning opportunities, memorable experiences and special events.

This final half term we have continued with our 'Wellness Warrior - Living their best life' topic. The pupils have developed understanding of factors that affect our wellbeing and explored how we help ourselves to stay happy and healthy.

Over the last 6 weeks, the pupils have engaged in several transition workshops with staff members from Caldicot School, the outreach service and Pastor Linforth, where they have been able to ask questions and develop strategies to support them in making a smooth transition to Year 7 in September.

Sports is a strength for many of our learners in Year 6 and wow what an amazing effort and sportsmanship the participants of the netball and football team showed in their most recent Round Robin tournament, we were extremely proud of them all!

Leavers' assembly brought a tear to many eyes as the pupils performed for their families for one last time at Castle Park Primary School. They were all outstanding and displayed many talents during the performance. We were all very proud of them!

As they now prepare to make the move to Secondary School we would like to wish them every success for the future. They leave us with many fantastic memories that I am sure they will cherish for many years to come



Apple Tree Class

What a fantastic final term we have had in Apple Tree Class! Our learning has been inspired by the wonderful adventures of *Kipper the Dog*, which the children have absolutely loved. This story also sparked our main project: planning our very own Summer Fair! The children have been incredibly busy learning how to set up and play traditional fair games, showing great turn-taking and sportsmanship while practicing 'hook-a-duck' and the hoop toss. We have also been practicing our fine motor and measuring

skills by making delicious sweetie cones and decorating plant pots. We are so proud of how hard everyone has worked, and we hope you all have a wonderful, well-deserved summer break!



Criw Cymraeg

Here is a snippet of a recent report by the Educational Advisory Service:

Pupil leadership is developing well through the establishment of a Criw Cymraeg. Members meet regularly with the Welsh Lead and demonstrate a good understanding of their role in promoting Welsh across the school. Pupils contribute actively to Welsh assemblies, leading initiatives such as the Welsh phrase of the week, song of the month and castle of the month. Members of the Criw Cymraeg speak positively about their responsibilities and take pride in encouraging their peers to use Welsh. They recognise the importance of engaging younger pupils and raising enthusiasm for Welsh throughout the school.

The Criw Cymraeg have also participated in Welsh cultural activities and team-building experiences (toffee making following a traditional Welsh recipe), helping to understand and strengthen their role as ambassadors for the Welsh language and culture.

The children are a credit to the school - many thanks (diolch yn fawr) for all they do!

Standing Together Against Racism (STAR) Group

This year we have created a new anti-racism pupil voice group. These pioneers have been working with Sean Wharton from 'No Boundaries' and have created a logo for the school, ordered new books for our library and were involved in updating our school posters. They made a video about the important work they have been doing and shared it in assembly. We are very proud of this group as they pass the baton of hope on to the year five children going into year six in September.



Gwyl Plant Festival

We are extremely proud of our Welsh country dancing club who represented our school at the Gwyl Plant dance festival. The children looked great in their new costumes made by Chloe, James and Ollie Bartlett's nan. A huge thank you for helping us to be the best dressed school! Thank you to all the parents that supported us on the day and danced with the children. We loved the group that made up their own dance.

