



Castle Cary Primary School  
Castle Cary Primary School, Park Street, Castle Cary, Somerset  
BA7 7EH  
Email: [admin.castlecary@acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:admin.castlecary@acexcellence.co.uk)  
Facebook: [Castle Cary Primary School](#)  
Headteacher: [Sarah Martin B.Ed. \(Hons\)](#)

## Newsletter: Spring 6 Friday 14th February 2025

Dear Parents,

This term has been another busy, but exciting one at school. We welcomed Mr Prosser and Miss Bartlett who have both settled in really well and feel like they have been with us for far longer than just 6 weeks! The children have done some fabulous learning, most recently as geographers and it was a delight to walk around school last week to see the children studying the school site, the town, the South West region, the area of Catalonia in Spain and also World Trade. It was great to see the progression of both knowledge and skills but also to hear the children talking so confidently about what they have been learning!

We will sadly say goodbye to Mrs Hemmett today who is going to be working at the Newt going forward. We know she will be just brilliant in her new role and we will make sure we see her when we visit. Mrs Meiris has been in to visit Turtle Class and we look forward to welcoming her after half term.

**PTFA Disco**

Thank you to the PTFA for organising the Valentines Disco for KS1 and KS2 last night. It was loud but everyone had a fantastic time 😊

**Facebook**

You can now follow what is happening at school on our new Facebook page. Please do follow us. This is not for contacting the school about your child but for sharing and celebrating what is happening with in our school you all.

**Parking**

Last week there was a near miss when a parent in a car almost knocked another parent off her bike outside school (we do have a photo of the car and we have passed it onto the police). Yet again we are witnessing some really dangerous driving and illegal parking, and I worry that sooner or later someone is going to get badly hurt, Please, please drive safely and responsibly around the school and please park in designated parking areas, not on the yellow zig zags or blocking driveways.

**Late pick up**

It is becoming a regular thing that a number of children are not being collected on time. We fully understand that this can sometimes not be avoided and are always grateful for a phone call to explain this but some parents do not even let us know. This can be very worrying for your children. In future if parents are late, we will put children into the Hive and parents will be sent the bill.

**Swearing**

We are really saddened by the number of children who are using inappropriate language in school and do not seem to care. This is just not fair on others who do not come to school to hear the words that are being used. Please can I ask you all to remind your children about appropriate language and we will be sending home letters after half term when children are heard swearing or using derogatory language.

**Cary in Bloom**

As you are aware we will be taking part in Cary In Bloom this year and the children will be creating planters and beds around school as part of a whole school learning

experience. We are looking for materials (and labour!!!) to make raised beds after Easter and also for green fingered parents and grandparents to get some seedlings started for us in greenhouses. Please do let me know if you can help in any way.

### OPAL

Mant thanks to the small group of parents who helped Zoe with the OPAL Spring Clean on Thursday this week. As a result of this we are now looking to replenish our OPAL resources with:

- Small toys/ figures
- Suitcases
- Tarpaulins
- Pushchairs
- Large cardboard boxes
- Dressing up clothes
- Guttering

If you are able to help with any of this, please drop it off to school.

### World Book Day

World Book Day takes place this year on 6<sup>th</sup> March. All children will be given a voucher after the holiday and a paper cup to transform into a book character. This will be a home learning task and we would like as many children to take part as possible. We will send out paper cups on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. Children will have the opportunity to dress as their favourite book character on the day, but this will not be compulsory.

### Wellies

Please can all children have wellies in school after half term please. If you have any spare wellies we would love to have them!!!

### Headlice

We are still struggling with cases of head lice in school. Please use the holiday to treat your child!

### Pants and socks

Starfish need clean pants and socks as spares please. So many have been sent home and not returned. If you have any please pass onto Mrs Whitehead.

### Attendance

This week we have reviewed attendance for this term and I am saddened by how many letters we are having to send out for children whose attendance is below 94%. For some parents this will be a letter of concern, for others you will be invited to a meeting to discuss how we can best support you in improving your child's attendance. We take attendance very seriously at school and will continue to monitor it with rigour. Please see below table which illustrates the importance of good attendance:

	Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100% - 99%	0 - 2	0 - 10
Good	98% - 96%	4 - 7.5	20 - 37.5
Requires Improvement	95% - 91%	9.5 - 17	47.5 - 85
Persistent Absentee	90% - 86%	19 - 27	95 - 135
Critical	85% and below	28.5 - 38	142.5 - 190

We also have a significant problem with lateness. This is simply not fair on your children as it is them who have to go into class when everyone else has settled and them who have to catch up on what they have missed, Being late to school can have a considerable

impact over the whole school year. The table below shows you just how much time can be missed over a year just by being 5 minutes late to school every day:

- 5 minutes late every day = 3 days of school lost a year
- 10 minutes late every day = 6.5 days of school lost a year
- 15 minutes late every day = 10 days of school lost a year
- 20 minutes late every day = 13 days of school lost a year
- 30 minutes late every day = 19 days of school lost a year

### Things happening in our community



### Key dates for your diary

- 24.2.25 School opens
- 24.2.25 TINK
- 26.2.25 Relationships and behaviour parent voice
- 3.3.25 TINK
- 4.3.25 PTFA meeting 7:30pm
- 5.3.25 5/6 Hockey at Ansford
- 5.3.25 Memory Café
- 6.3.25 World Book Day
- 21.3.25 South Cary House
- 25.3.25 Highfield House
- 26.3.25 5/6 Netball at Ansford
- 31.3.25 Bikeability
- 1.4.25 Bikeability
- 2.4.25 Memory Cafe
- 3.4.25 Easter Bingo
- 4.4.25 Year 1/2 Easter performance
- 4.4.25 Easter Bonnet Parade
- 4.4.25 KS2 Easter Buggy Race
- 4.4.25 School closes



Starfish - Isabelle Wingham  
Sea Otter - Aurelia Obern  
Turtle - Violet Smith  
Dolphin - Dominic Puscas  
Octopus - Lexi Woods  
Swordfish - Tommy Bradfield  
Jellyfish - Maiya Haygarth  
Head teacher's award - Thomas Prosser

Sarah Martin

Please remember to use this notification if your child is feeling under the weather when you bring them to school so we can keep an eye on them!

