

Castlecroft News

Autumn Edition!

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Welcome everyone to the Autumn edition of Castlecroft News. The articles as always have been written by the children about the exciting things that have taken place during the first half of the Autumn term. Overall we have made a great start to the term and particular praise should go to the children for their excellent behaviour both in lessons and whilst on the playground.

Attendance

Attendance nationally and locally remains below pre-pandemic levels and attendance at Castlecroft is no different. We are being challenged by the local authority to improve attendance within school. Holidays in term time will not be authorised unless the circumstances are exceptional and may result in a fine being issued if it is for 5 days or more. At the moment whole school attendance stands at 93.7% which is slightly below the national average.

Our class attendance competition has been running for a number of years now and still remains popular with the children. Each week a pizza slice is awarded to the class with the highest attendance and the class that collects the most slices each term wins a pizza party.

Here are the attendance winners so far: -

Autumn Term	Year group with the highest attendance	% attendance
2 nd September 2024	Yr2	100%
9 th September 2024	Yr 5	99.1%
16 th September 2024	Yr 3 and 4	95.7%
23 rd September 2024	Yr 3 and 4	97.4%
30 th September 2024	Reception	98.3%
7 th October 2024	Yr 1	97.3%
14 th October 2024	Yr 3	98.4%
21 st October 2024	Yr3	97.1%

Forensic Science Workshop

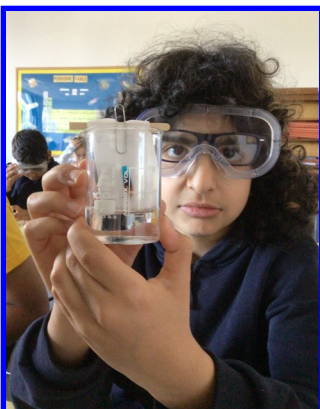
By Raul and Chloe

On the 16th September, Year 5 went to Smestow School to take part in a forensic science workshop. When we arrived at Smestow we went straight into the science lab to start the workshop. Firstly, we met the teacher,

Mrs Neish, who told us that one of the science teachers had stolen some money.

It was our job to find out who had done it. We first looked at everyone's alibis. Everyone was in different places, doing different things, at the time of the crime. We studied the fingerprints and clothing samples. Then, we looked at chromatology. We put a black dot on the paper, rolled it up and put it in salt water, it created a rainbow stripe.

Then we did a flame test, the flame went a lilac colour. We then got a powder from all the teachers and 2 went lilac. Finally, the workshop ended and we found out that Miss Gortam had committed the crime.



It was a really fun and interesting experience and we hope we can do something like that again.

Timezone By Isabela

On Wednesday 25th September, Year 3 went into the hall to learn about the Stone Age with a lady called Kathryn. First, we discussed what tools and weapons were used, they were very simple and made out of stone. We made flour by putting wheat in between two stones, one big, flat one and a small one. We pushed and pulled the stones to grind the wheat to make flour. We put the flour in a container but the Stone Age people would have made bread with it. Dressing up as Stone Aged people was fun and we walked around carefully with spears, keeping them safely away from our body.

Then, we went back into the classroom to make felt. On our desks we had a roll mat, some wool and a washing up liquid bottle with soapy water in it. We brushed and washed the two big clumps of sheep's wool. When the wool was smooth, we put the two pieces on the roll mat in different directions, like in Jenga. We put some cotton fabric on the wool and gently squeezed the soapy water out of it and then made the wool flat. Kathryn came round and put warm water on the wool. We kept squidding and rubbing it and then we rolled it up in the roll mat and rolled it hard so the wool mixed together. We then opened the mat, quarter turned the wool and rolled it again. We did this six times. When we took the wool out, it was starting to look more like felt. Kathryn washed and rinsed it and then we left it to dry on a paper towel with our names on.

After lunch, we went back into the hall to look at the Iron Age, we discussed how it was different to the Stone Age. There were a lot more iron tools and weapons. We were allowed to explore. We could use the drill which was a stick with a string attached. You twisted and pulled the stick so the pointy bit of metal made a hole.

The soldiers had metal jackets and helmets which they wore to battle. The rich people's helmets had chainmail to protect their neck and back, but the poor people wore simpler helmets with less protection. The helmets were very heavy, like the shields which were too big for us to hold. My favourite part of the day was when we made bracelets out of coloured string. We used a forked twig to twist and pull the string to make the bracelet. We tied a knot in the string and then put them on our wrists.

I liked the Iron Age better as there were more things to do and more tools. I had a fun and interesting day because I love learning about history.



Cross Country Report By Erica and Aurora

On Wednesday 2nd October, 11 children from Year 4, 5 and 6 went to Fordhouses Cricket Club to take part in a cross country relay.

Mr Morgan and Mr Dyall drove Erin M, Lucas B, Erin H, Harlee, Pheobe, Erica, Aurora, Leo M, Ryan L, James T and Ishrah there in their cars. The race was hard but we all finished with Ryan coming first for the boys and Aurora finishing first for the girls.

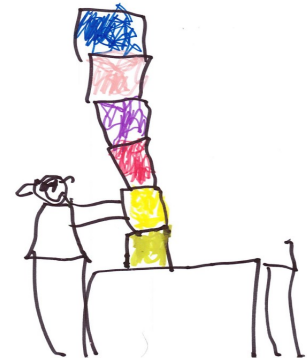
Taking part was a great experience and we are looking forward to competing again.



Bright for Sight

By David

On Tuesday 8th October, we celebrated World Sight Day with the Beacon Centre for the Blind. We all came to school with bright clothes on. The Beacon Centre people showed us some special glasses and all the children in Year 2 wore the glasses. We couldn't see anything... just black. We made tall buildings with Mega Blox when we had an eye-mask on. We felt money and some food. All of the tins of food felt the same. I went with Lara and Harriet and collected money from all the children in school. I carried the bucket of money and it was too heavy for me!



Drawing by David
Building a tall tower with Mega Blox

Harvest Festival

By Kaycie

Year 3 practised their Harvest Festival songs at school and at home until we were really good and knew all the words.

We invited our adults to come and see our harvest assembly on Thursday 10th October. My Mum and Nan came to see me.

We told the story of the 'Little Red Hen'. Milan was the hen, who asked his friends to help him make a loaf of bread. None of them helped him but they did want to eat the bread after all the hard work was done. The Little Red Hen said they could have some bread as long as they helped to make the bread next time.

We sang 'Autumn Days', 'Paint a Perfect Picture' and 'Colour of Day'. We sang them all really well and said our words very loud and clearly.

A big display of all the tins and packets that we had brought in were put on tables in the hall. All the donated food went to people who are homeless and don't have any food.

I really enjoyed being part of the harvest festival because I liked saying my words and singing the songs with my friends. My Mum and Nan said, "Well done" to me and looked really happy when we were doing our assembly.



Fiction Fortnight

By Raya and Sasha

The Nursery children put on our puddles suits because it was cold and muddy outside. We went onto the school field to do 'Wild Tribe' and look for mini beasts with a magnifying glass, which makes things look a bit bigger. We found a slug, a spider which ran really fast and a worm under a piece of wood.

We ate some porridge, just like the three bears and Goldilocks did in our story. Mrs Wallace made the porridge by heating some milk in a boiling kettle on a fire.

The porridge was just right to eat and was nice and sweet with the honey on it. It was so yummy.

We also had a hot chocolate which made us feel very warm inside. We liked our 'Wild Tribe' adventure as it was fun eating porridge outside.



Football Report **Castlecroft v Springdale** **By Stanley, Archie and Charlie**

Our football team travelled to Springdale Primary School on Monday 21st October. When we arrived, we started our training and Mr Morgan announced that Charlie was our captain.

Before we kicked off, Mr Morgan told us about one of Springdale's team, saying she was their best player. She really was good! Early on, Jacob hit a banger off the cross bar and into the back of the net. 1-0 to Castlecroft. Then, Springdale equalised, so 1-1. Then our left winger, Ryan scored. So at half time the score was 2-1 to us.

Springdale started the second half with a goal which slipped passed our keeper, Leo. Then, there was an own goal off Springdale. Lucky for us, not for them.

The game finished with Castlecroft winning with a final score of 5-2. We played a cracking match and were very happy with our team work. We are already thinking about how to play better for our next match.



Football Report **Castlecroft v St Judes** **By Ryan and Leo**

At the start of the away football match against St Judes, both teams had chances to score

but, unfortunately, St Judes scored first but we defended well, keeping it 1-0 for the rest of the first half.

After a quick pep talk, the second half was away, straight into a kick off. We had control of the ball at the end of the pitch with Ryan slotting the ball into the back of the net, 1-1. Both teams battled well with Castlecroft looking stronger, somehow, St Judes broke past our defence and scored. Castlecroft had many chances, hitting the post, then our last kick of the match, their keeper made a great save.

Overall, it was a great experience and we had lots of fun.

