



## Castle School

Academy Road  
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9FZ  
Telephone: 01670 844322 admin.cs@castle.ncea.org.uk

Principal: Mrs S Wild

16 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The last day of term will be **Friday 17 July 2020** although school will formally finish for Castle pupils on Thursday 16 July 2020 at the normal time. School will restart on Wednesday 2 September 2020 at the usual time of 8:45am for Secondary pupils and 8:50am for Primary.

### Staff News

We are sorry to say goodbye this term to Sue McFarlane who has been our School Nurse for a number of years. We wish Sue every success as she heads up a new project with the NHS.

We are also saying happy retirement to Sue Emery who has been one of the Speech & Language therapists at Castle and goodbye to Emma Hammond another Speech & Language therapist.

Angela Snowden who has been a teaching assistant both at Castle School and at Riverbank in Hirst High, has retired after many years of supporting our older students.

Janet Wood, also a teaching assistant, who again has been at Castle School and in the Cheviot Department in Seaton Hirst Middle has left the school to pursue other ventures.

Danny Knight who has been at Castle School as a Teaching Assistant has recently qualified as a Teacher and has been appointed to teach at Hillcrest.

We thank them all for their work with the school and wish them all the very best for the future.

We congratulate Vicky Box who is expecting a baby in September and also Caitlin Hall whose baby is due in November.

### Snack Money

This is a reminder that snack money is due at the **start** of each half term and is charged at **£5.00** per half term.



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### Lunches

Lunch charges from September will be £2.20 for Primary and £2.40 for Secondary and are payable weekly or termly.

**If your child is moving from Year 2 into Year 3 then you will need to start paying for school lunches. Parents may apply to the local authority to enquire if they are eligible for Free School Meals. They can be contacted either by telephone on 01670 623592 or email : <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>**

### Email Addresses

It is very important that in times of need we can get information to parents quickly. The most efficient way of doing this is by Parentmail/email. Please could you ensure that the Office has an up-to-date email address. If you do not have an email address then letters etc will be posted but this may delay information getting to you.

### Staff Development Days/Term Dates

Please note that the Staff Development Days have been set for 1 September 2020, 4 January 2021 and 25 June 2021 and therefore the school will be closed to pupils on those days. A copy of next year's term dates is enclosed.

### Absence/Holiday Requests

If your child is absent from school for any reason please can we ask you to ring the office on 01670 844322 and let us know as soon as possible. You can also inform the office via Parentmail or by emailing [admin.cs@castle.ncea.org.uk](mailto:admin.cs@castle.ncea.org.uk). You should then continue to make regular daily calls to update the School. If we do not hear from you then we will be in touch to ensure we have up-to-date information.

If your child is absent and usually comes to school using the school transport then it is your responsibility to make contact directly and inform them of the situation. If you would like to request a holiday then please complete the relevant form and return to the office prior to taking the holiday.

### Visitors

If you are visiting Castle School you will notice that there now is a door bell near the Visipoint unit. Please sign in as you would normally do and then ring the bell. One of the administration team will come and escort you into the school.



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Looking forward to September, as you will be aware, the government has asked that all pupils return to school and it is our intention that Castle School will be open to all pupils from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

We have already been in touch with most of you to see what you are thinking about for September. However, we do appreciate it is difficult to say as we really do not know where we will be by then and I do want to reassure you, that is fine and we are very happy to speak further with parents/carers nearer the time.

If something does come up during the holidays, please do feel free to email us on [admin.cs@castle.ncea.org.uk](mailto:admin.cs@castle.ncea.org.uk) and a member of staff will get back to you. If your child has additional health needs, we are working closely with health colleagues to ensure that the necessary risk assessments will all be in place ahead of September. If you are anxious or confused as to whether this affects your child, please do get in touch via email and we will be happy to help.

As we are still waiting for some of the details for September, e.g. school transport, I will be writing again towards the end of the summer holidays, via Parentmail if you are signed up or a paper copy if you are not, with an update.

On behalf of all staff at Castle School, may I wish you a very enjoyable holiday and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely

*Sara Wild*

Sara Wild  
Principal



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## SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM DATES 2020 / 2021

	School closes	School re-opens
Summer 2020	Friday 17 July 2020	Wednesday 2 September 2020
Autumn Half Term	Friday 23 October 2020	Monday 2 November 2020
Christmas/New Year	Friday 18 December 2020	Tuesday 5 January 2021
Spring Half Term	Friday 12 February 2021	Monday 22 February 2021
Easter	Friday 26 March 2021	Tuesday 12 April 2021
May Day	Monday 3 May 2021	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer Half Term	Friday 28 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2021	Friday 16 July 2021	Monday 6 September 2021

### Staff Development Days

Children are not expected to attend school on the Staff Development Days noted below:

Tuesday 1 September 2020

Monday 4 January 2021

Friday 25 June 2021



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