



Newsletter – July 2026

Dear Parents,

As I have said last year and the year before and the year before... this has been a fantastic year for Castlefield School!

- Statutorily measured outcomes for pupils are higher than they have ever been and are some of the strongest by comparison to other schools both locally and nationally (see below).
- The breadth and depth of your children's learning is very strong across the curriculum and the range of additional opportunities we offer your children is effective, well planned and growing.
- While other schools are struggling, our well managed finances ensure we can continue to invest in and prioritise the right areas for our pupils.

Thank you for all your support over this year and we look forward to continuing our success in 2026/2027!

But do not just take my word for it...

		Castlefield School Outcomes for 2025/2026 (unvalidated data)	How does this compare (comparison is to 2024/2025 data as 2026 has not been published yet)
Early Years Outcomes		67.6%	After many years of refining our practice and targeting specific improvements across the Early Years, we have finally closed the gap with the National Average (2024 = 67.7%)! This is a huge achievement for the whole of our Early Years team, is the highest results the school has ever had (in its history) and represents huge rates of progress from the children's very low starting points.
Y1 Phonics check		98.1%	The National Average for 2025 was 81% This is the 6th year in a row we have exceeded 90% Reading is the single most important subject. If children can read well, they will be able to access all other subjects.
Y4 Multiplication Check		66.7%	The National Average for 2025 was 37% This test assesses children's rapid recall of times tables up to 12x12. Strong recall of times tables underpins a lot useful and lifelong maths skills
KS2 Tests (end of Y6)	Expected Standard	Reading: 92%	<u>At the Expected Standard</u> Reading: The National Average in 2025 was 74% Writing: The National Average in 2025 was 72% SPaG: The National Average in 2025 was 73% Maths: The National Average in 2025 was 73% In all areas, Castlefield School has significantly exceeded the National Average
		Writing: 80%	
		SPaG: 94%	
		Maths: 94%	
	Greater Depth	Reading: 53%	<u>At Greater Depth</u> Reading: The National Average in 2025 was 28% Writing: The National Average in 2025 was 13% SPaG: The National Average in 2025 was 31% Maths: The National Average in 2025 was 23% In all areas (except GD writing), Castlefield School has significantly exceeded the National Average
		Writing: 6%	
		SPaG: 67%	
		Maths: 67%	

These outcomes are collectively the strongest the school has ever achieved in its history!

How should I help my child?

All the hard work your children and the school have put in will be for nothing, unless children **continue to read daily throughout the holidays and work on the targets in their reports**. We know that 6 weeks without learning, practising and reinforcing knowledge just means children will forget what they have learnt (and they do forget things far quicker than they learn them).

Over the summer, support your child by listening to them read every day and talk to them about their book.
Help them to complete the reading challenge and the holiday packs.

Goodbyes

After 20 years of service to Castlefield School, we say a sad goodbye to Mrs Raghu, who is stepping away from work for personal reasons. She has been a great asset to the school, supporting countless numbers of our younger children to gain confidence, improve core skills and become more confident. We wish her the very best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

It is also with sadness that we say goodbye to:

- Mr Oakley who, after 5 years with us, is taking on an exciting opportunity as a Deputy Headteacher. He will be missed by all and has made a really significant contribution to the school. He has been instrumental in leading our writing provision across KS2 and leaves a legacy of wonderful practice at Castlefield School.
- Mrs Quinton, who is leaving England to pursue exciting adventures teaching abroad. Over the past 4 years, she has launched our Talk 4 Writing approach, co-ordinated our computing provision and has led on our approach to and use of AI in school. We wish her the best of luck on her travels and thank her for her unwavering cheerfulness and support.

We also say goodbye to our Year 6 children. They have been such a lovely group of children, full of qwerks, character and humour. We are proud of the young adults they are growing into and how far they have come in their own personal journeys. We will miss the strong role models they have become and the good examples their leadership has shown their peers and younger children across the school. We wish them the very best for their futures, wherever it may take them and know they leave us ready for their next steps!

Changes for September – Where is Mr Kann?

Following a rigorous recruitment process, I will begin working part time for the Local Authority in a seconded role. This work will see me away from Castlefield School for approximately 3 days a week for the next academic year, as the Families First, Education Lead.

Whilst I am away, I will retain strategic oversight of the school, its work and organisation, however the day to day running of the school in my absence will be carried out by Miss Wilson.

The Governing Body and I have the upmost confidence in the arrangements in place to ensure 'business as usual' and a continued focus on excellence. We hope, that besides seeing less of me, you will notice very little change!

Lunches

Please remember that we are switching lunch providers to Fresh Start and that lunches must be ordered via their MealManger portal (please see your individual letters).

Wishing you all a lovely summer holiday, thank you for your continuing support as we continue to strive for excellence. We look forward to seeing your children on **Thursday 3rd September**.



Andrew Kann
(Headteacher)

Important Dates

Thursday 23rd July – Thursday 3rd September	Summer Holidays
Tuesday 1 st and Wednesday 2 nd September	NO SCHOOL – INSET DAYS 11:00am – 3:30pm School office open
Thursday 3rd September	Children return to school
Tuesday 8 th September	11+ Practice Test
Thursday 10 th September	11+ Transfer Tests
Friday 11 th September	9:00-9:30am Phonics Meeting for Reception & Year 1 Parents
Monday 5 th October	9:00-10:00am Maths Workshop for Reception & Year 1 Parents
Tuesday 6 th October	9:00-10:00am Maths Workshop for Year 2 Parents
Wednesday 7 th October	9:00-10:00am Maths Workshop for Year 3 & 4 Parents
Thursday 8 th October	9:00-10:00am Maths Workshop for Year 5 & 6 Parents
	10:00-10:30am Lower Phase Harvest Assembly
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October	Autumn half term holiday
Monday 2 nd November	Children return to school
Friday 20 th November	Target Setting Day
Monday 23rd November	NO SCHOOL – INSET DAY
Friday 27 th November	School Photos
Thursday 17 th December	STEM day
Friday 18 th December	1:00pm – Term ends
Monday 21st December – Monday 4th January	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 5 th January	Children return to school
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February	Spring half term holiday
Monday 22 nd February	Children return to school
Wednesday 24 th March	1:00pm – Term ends
Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 12 th April	Children return to school

If you **follow us on Facebook (Castlefield School, High Wycombe)** or **Instagram @castlefieldschoolbucks** you will see photographs and posts about the learning and fun activities that happen around the school.

Keep checking the website for any changes and new activities going on in school!

www.castlefieldschool.co.uk