



Dear Parents and Carers,

22nd January 2018

We have got back into the swing of things very quickly for this short half term. It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Academic Tutoring Day supporting the setting of targets. We took the opportunity to use iPads for our feedback collection and this has been very helpful. We are working our way through that feedback and will be in touch if you have raised a question or issue.

We have been delighted to launch our new website this week. Please do have a look at it. It is a work in progress still and will be updated very regularly, but we hope it provides a good clear picture of the school and how it works and allows you to access key information. It is hosted on www.castlemanor.org.uk although the old website also redirects to this address too. Any feedback you have is most welcome.

At the beginning of term I led assemblies with all of our children and talked to them about a book, Wonder, that I really enjoyed reading last summer holidays. This book has a great theme around how people treat each other and the importance of being kind. I launched 'The Wonder Project' where children requested copies of the book, read it then pass it on, reviewing the book and thinking about its impact on them. This has had a great start, and it occurred to me that many of you would probably enjoy the book too. Currently on offer on Amazon, Wonder, by R.J. Palacio, it is aimed at young adults and is a really good, life affirming read. I will admit to having a little cry behind my sunglasses while reading it! We are also working with the Arts Centre to get a date for just before Easter for a family viewing of the film based on the book, so we'll be in touch.

We have been so delighted with your support and response to our high expectations around equipment and punctuality to school and have seen great improvements on this and the focus on high quality learning in lessons. We are going to start working over the next few weeks on raising our expectations of conduct out of lessons and talking to students about this. We have had some silly and unsafe behaviour reported to us on the way home from school and so are also going to be making sure children understand the importance of road safety and sensible behaviour in and around our community. A reminder that our expectations for learning policy is available on our website and it is worth reading through, particularly in relation to uniform, jewellery, make up and hair expectations. We have recently had a few young people coming to school with nail extensions, which are not permitted. These I know can be really expensive so please don't waste money on these during school term time.

As my final request, please can you encourage parents that you know to get in touch with us if they are not receiving these regular letters by email. We are working hard to communicate effectively and electronic communication seems to be the most efficient, but we still do not reach everyone.

As ever I am more than happy to hear from you, VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk or book an appointment via Gill Mitchell my PA on GMitchell@castlemanor.org.uk

Wishing you a very good week.

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

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