



Dear Parents and Carers,

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Another week has gone by very quickly and we have lots going on in and around school. Congratulations to our sports teams who have taken part in several fixtures this week. It has been lovely to see students at different after school clubs enjoying some different aspects to learning. I heard that a giant bug was found in the gardens at 'bug hunting club' an offshoot of pokemon club on Friday and our Pride Alliance club are keenly looking at where they can put displays in school to raise awareness of LGBGTQ+ issues. If your child has a particular interest that they would enjoy doing at school as part of a club do encourage them to talk to their tutor and we'll see if we can put additional clubs and groups on. We are also developing our subject ambassadors who will be able to work with other students in after school clubs as time goes on.

Thank you all for continuing with lateral flow tests at home. It is really helping us to pick up cases. There are also non covid coughs/colds and flu type illnesses going around at the moment, and we encourage a PCR test if you have any of the COVID symptoms. Please continue to notify us of results of PCR tests even if they are negative as we then know to expect your child back at school once they are well enough. We are setting work for students who are off with positive results or pending results and encourage school work to be completed if children feel well enough to. We are monitoring our COVID cases carefully and did see an increase in cases in the last 10 days. If we have 5 or more cases in a class we will contact that class to advise PCR tests. We have also reintroduced cleaning down of desks at the end of every lesson as an additional measure. We remain in contact with the local authority and public health to make sure we are doing everything expected of us. Cases seem to have slowed and we have slightly edited our letter that we send as we realised last week it wasn't quite clear.

I have had a couple of queries about Flu vaccinations this week. We are aware that the Schools Vaccination Team are intending to come to school and administer Flu vaccinations to all students in Year 7-11. The details and permission forms will be sent once we know the full details. We are yet to hear about COVID vaccinations, and I do wonder if there will be a plan to do both at the same time, but we will let you know. To reassure you no students will be vaccinated for either Flu or COVID without consent of parents.

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

Unity Schools Partnership is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Unity SP Offices, Park Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 7YD.



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We have our Open Evening coming up on 14th October, starting at 4.30pm. It will be a little different to previous years as we are trying to make it as COVID secure as possible, but we are delighted to be able to show our school to those who are interested in securing a place for September 2022. This is a ticketed event where we are asking people to stagger their arrivals and tickets can be booked on this link here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/organizations/events>

We are currently making sure we have got two emergency contacts for every student in school, and our office will be in touch with you if we have not. It is really important that we have this so that we can make contact if we need to such as if a child has an accident, so please do provide this information if it is requested.

Apologies also to some Year 7 parents whose information did not transfer from Primary schools into our system accurately. If you know anyone who does not receive my weekly letters and other messages from school via email please do get in touch with Mr Gomm in our Admin office on AGomm@castlemanor.org.uk

We are also currently updating our website <https://castlemanor.org.uk/> to ensure that information is up to date. It does provide a lot of information about our school, and also what is being studied in each year group.

As ever please do get in touch with me on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk if you need to or contact your child's Achievement Leader. We are here to support and work together with you as a team.

Achievement leaders -

Year 7 Mr Bonas KBonas@castlemanor.org.uk  
Year 8 Miss Towers LTowers@castlemanor.org.uk  
Year 9 Mrs Plunkett CPLunkett@castlemanor.org.uk  
Year 10 Mr Sims NSims@castlemanor.org.uk  
Year 11 Miss Bushell RBushell@castlemanor.org.uk

Have a really good week ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Whitcombe  
Headteacher

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