

2nd February 2024



Caston News



Dates for your Diary:

14th February - 6pm - Year 6 Parents SATS Meeting
19th February - 23rd February - Half Term
5th March - Parents Evening
8th March - World Book Day
14th March - Parents Evening
15th March - Comic Relief - Red Nose Day
27th March - 2.15pm Easter Service at School
27th March - End of Term
15th April - Back to School - Summer Term
6th May - Bank Holiday
27th May - 31st May - Half term
10th -13th June - Year 5 & 6 Bikeability
19th July - End of Term - Summer Holidays
4th September - Back to School

Weekly Attendance

26-1 February

As a School - 92.84%
Fry Class - 92%
Nelson Class - 92.69%
Carter Class - 91.25%
Cavell Class - 95.68%
Congratulations to Cavell Class for having the best attendance figures this week.

School Pick Up

We have noticed that some children are being picked up late from school on a regular basis.

Please can parents ensure they arrive on time for pick up and if you are going to be late that the school is notified.

Breakfast Club

It is with regret that we must inform you that from 1st April 2024 the daily charge for Breakfast Club will increase to £3.50 per session.

If you are working and in receipt of Universal Credit you may be able to get help to pay for Breakfast Club. The school also accepts payments through the Tax Free Childcare system. More information on different help available is attached to this newsletter

Online Safety

Next week is online safety week.

During the week the children will learning about keeping safe online.

The NSPCC has lots of great online safety guides for parents.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/#guides>

Reading

Children in Reception, Key Stage 1 and some children in Key Stage 2 children bring home a phonics reading book.

These books should be read multiple times so that children become confident in reading them.

Due to this the books will only be changed once a week. Please try to read with your child at least 3 times a week.

Items from Home

Children **should not** be bringing items (for example: toys, jewellery, elaborate hair bands/clips etc) from home into school.

If they do bring them in parents/carer's should take them home and not leave them in bags as items are going missing or getting broken.

Leaflet Funding

With so many building projects ongoing or planned in our area, we are keen to develop a basic printed leaflet to promote both Caston and Parkers to families moving to the area. If any parents are local business owners and would be interested in supporting this as a marketing opportunity, please contact Mrs Jeffries, School Business Manager (sbm@dovefederation.dneat.org) by Friday 9 February.

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

Will be on Friday 15th March. The theme this year is
DRESS UP FOR JOY

Pick a theme, don the best home-made costume ever, go red from head to toe or simply dig out your brightest socks. Wear something that makes you and your school smile, in return for a donation. Donations can be made on the day there will be a collection bucket at the gate and office both in the morning and the afternoon.



Help with Childcare Costs when you are working

There are several different schemes which provide help with childcare costs.

Some of these schemes are closed to new applicants but if you are already getting help through the scheme you can carry on getting it.

These schemes are still open to new applications:

- Childcare element of Universal Credit
- Tax Free Childcare.

These schemes are closed to new applications:

- Childcare element of Working Tax Credit
- Childcare vouchers/Employer provided childcare

Universal Credit

To claim help with childcare through Universal Credit, you will need to claim Universal Credit. If you are already getting Universal Credit but aren't getting help with childcare costs, you should report these costs in your journal.

Help with childcare through Universal Credit is paid to you and not to your childcare provider. It is paid in arrears, which means it will only be paid to you after you have paid your childcare provider.

You will need to report how much you have paid in childcare costs each assessment period.

You will also need to provide evidence of how much you have paid.

If you pay for childcare that covers more than one assessment period, you will only get an amount of childcare costs element in each assessment period that covers the costs for childcare that took place in that assessment period.

Tax Free Childcare

You can't get Tax Free Childcare at the same time as Universal Credit or tax credits.

If you claim Tax Free Childcare, this will stop your tax credits. It won't stop your Universal Credit automatically but you will be asked to close your claim for Universal Credit. You also can't get it at the same time as childcare vouchers.

Tax Free Childcare means the government will pay £2 for every £8 you spend on childcare, up to a maximum of £2,000 per year per child (or £4,000 for a child with a disability). It is managed through an online account. Your childcare provider will be paid direct from this account.

You can get Tax Free Childcare for children up to the age of 11. If your child has a disability and gets Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP), or is sight impaired, you can get tax free childcare until the child is 17.

To be able to get tax free childcare, you have to satisfy the earnings rules:

If you're single:

- You need to be earning more than 16 x national minimum wage per week (this doesn't apply if you're self employed and started your business less than a year ago. It also doesn't apply if you're off work and getting Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), or if you're off work on adoption or maternity/paternity leave)
- You need to be earning less than £100,000 per year.

Help with Childcare Costs when you are working

If you live with a partner:

- You both need to be earning more than 16 x national minimum wage per week (if one of you is self-employed and started your business less than a year ago this won't apply to them), or
- One of you needs to be working and earning more than 16 x national minimum wage and the other needs to be claiming Carer's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), or
- One or both of you is temporarily off work on maternity/paternity or adoption leave or Statutory Sick Pay, and when you're working you would satisfy the earnings requirements.
- If either of you has an income of more than £100,000 per year, you won't be able to use the scheme.

You can apply for the Tax Free Childcare scheme online.

Which scheme is best for me?

It can be hard to work out which of the government's schemes you will be better off on. The Gov.UK website has a calculator to help you decide. However, it doesn't show the help you can get through Universal Credit yet. You can use the Turn2us benefit calculator to check what help you can get through Universal Credit and compare that to the help you can find using the gov.uk calculator. If you are struggling to make sense of it, you should speak to an adviser.

FRY CLASS NOTICES

Class Teachers - Miss Lindop &
Mr Halmshaw

In Fry class this week, we
have been making our own
Aboriginal art .



CARTER CLASS NOTICES

Class Teacher - Miss Spooner

Carter Class have been looking at circuits. What makes a circuit, identifying whether they are complete or incomplete, and also what conductors and insulators are.

