Ackton Pastures Primary Academy
Part of the Inspire Partnership Multi-Academy Trust

College Grove,
Castleford,
West Yorkshire
WF10 5NS
Telephone: 01977 802322
Email: ap-enquiries@inspirepartnership.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr C. Ivel
Chair of Governors: Mrs H. Causier
Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mr C. Ivel
Miss C. Woodhouse, Miss S Naylor
Miss R Lynch, Mrs E Jackson, Mrs D White

'Children at the heart; inspiring futures'

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an exciting week of Den building, litter picking and new book deliveries in school this week (see our school instagram page for more details!). Lots of classes continued their forest school work on Tuesday and there was definitely a spooky feel in school yesterday as After School Club hosted their Halloween craft night.

Family Consultations
Family consultations will take place on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October. These are available to book via Arbor now. An email has been sent with instructions, please do speak to the office if you have any questions. Please note that teacher led after school clubs will not take place on the Wednesday of parents evening, our after school wraparound club will be available should you need it.

Individual Photographs
On Monday next week (19th October), we will be having our annual individual photographs in school for all pupils. These photos are used to keep our school records up to date and parents are given the option to purchase copies of these. The photographers will also conduct photographs with siblings in school on the day.

School Gates
A huge plea, if you are entering school at any point during the school day when the gates are normally locked, please ensure these are locked again behind you. The main parent entrance during the day operates on a mag lock system so the magnets need to reconnect fully to ensure this is locked. Gates should **not** be propped open during school hours to ensure safeguarding.

Halloween Disco.
A reminder our Halloween Discos will take place on the first week back after the holidays. EYFS/KS1 will take place on Tuesday 3rd November and KS2 will take place on Wednesday 4th November. Tickets will cost £4.50 which will include a drink and hotdog. These are available to purchase on Arbor and close on Sunday 1st November at 6pm in order for staff to cater for the event.
Children will be invited to bring their Halloween costumes/party clothes in a bag to change into at the end of the day, before the disco. Phase leaders will send specific information out about the discos closer to the time. Both discos will run from 3.15-4.15pm.

Wraparound

Just a reminder that our wraparound pick up point is at the Year 3&4 classroom. Parents need to sign to say they have collected their child. If someone other than the parent is collecting, please inform school beforehand so our wraparound staff can be informed.

Also, a polite reminder that our club finishes at 5pm every night. You must inform staff if you are going to be late. The wraparound number is 07515 633216 and staff are available to answer the phone from 3:30pm.

Online Safety:

We carry out lots of online safety work in school as part of our Computing and One Life curriculums and regularly talk to the children about staying safe online. I thought it would be useful to provide some support for parents with understanding how the online world is developing and give you some guidance to support children with staying safe online. This week I am focussing on you tube, a fabulous platform that brings together videos and information on a range of topics and creative medias. Please see the information leaflet at the end of this leaflet, from the National College, with some great tips on ensuring children access youtube for its desired purpose.

Attendance

We know how important good attendance is for ensuring your child has a successful journey through their school years. Missed days and lessons often lead to broken knowledge and missed opportunities. As a school we have high expectations for attendance but also appreciate that sometimes other factors can cause a barrier to this. I am sharing a leaflet from Family Horizons who work with families who struggle with their child's attendance and offer support for parents with understanding the barriers children can sometimes face. Similarly as a school, all our staff are trained in EBSA (Emotional Based School Avoidance) which equips us with support strategies for breaking down barriers that stop children attending. Please speak to us if you are struggling with attendance. A reminder classroom doors are closed by 9am so that registers can be completed, children arriving after this must enter through the main school office and will be marked as late.

PTA

We are sorry we had to cancel the last PTA meeting due to illness, we are pleased to announce we have a new date in the diary of Monday 19th October straight after school, please speak to Mrs Peters, who can predominantly be found in KS2 classrooms at the end of the day, should you wish to find out more and join this fantastic group that help school raise vital funds.

Halloween Window Competition

A reminder that Castleford Civic society is running a Halloween window competition this year and they are encouraging children in Castleford aged 12 and under to get creative by decorating a Halloween window and sending in a photograph of their design. Please do see the leaflet at the end of this newsletter should you be interested in participating with your children.

Kendal Drive Family Hub Halloween Party

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A reminder of the link below to the Kendal Drive Family Hub Halloween Party. You should be able to copy and paste the link into your internet browser with further details about this fantastic event.
https://eequ.org/book/halloween-party-with-kendal-drive-family-hub-35211

Attendance this week	
Reception – Mrs Jackson	90%
Reception – Mr Smith	92%
Year 1 – Miss Wilson	95%
Year 1/2 – Mrs Turfrey	98%
Year 2 – Miss Moorby	96%
Year 3 – Miss Briscoe	99%
Year 3/4 - Miss Naylor	99%
Year 4 – Miss Stanton	96%
Year 5 – Miss Gibbins	98%
Year 5/6 – Mrs Longoni	98%
Year 6 – Miss Lynch	99%

We somehow find ourselves with only one week left of this half term. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend doing the things you enjoy the most. I hope to catch up with lots of you at Parent Consultation Evenings next week, in which teachers will be able to share lots of successes from a busy half term with you all.

See you all on Monday,

Mr Ivel

Headteacher

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday

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FAMILY Horizons

Supporting Parents and Carers of Children Experiencing School Attendance Difficulties

What is Family Horizons?

A **free** online course for parents and carers whose children are finding school attendance challenging. Whether your child is starting to show signs of anxiety about school, or hasn't been able to attend for some time, this course offers understanding, practical support, and hope.

What does it offer families?

- Understanding of your child's experience with school
- Practical strategies and tools to support wellbeing
- Ways to work effectively with schools
- Stories from families who understand
- Resources you can use with your child

How does it work?

- Access 5 chapters with video content online anytime
- Watch short, focused videos
- Download practical resources
- Revisit materials when needed

Every child's journey is unique. Whether you're just noticing difficulties or have been supporting your child for some time, Family Horizons provides gentle, practical support for your family's specific situation.

The Headteacher is the designated person for all child protection issues

CASTLEFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

children's HALLOWEEN window award

competition

To enter:

send in a picture of your decorated window to the **Castleford Civic Society Facebook page** or email it to **castlefordcivicsociety@gmail.com** for a chance to win a spooky prize!

Entries must be in by **7pm on the 18th October**.

Winner to be announced on the 24th October

THE ~~GHOULS~~ RULES!

- YOU MUST BE 12 OR UNDER AND LIVE IN CASTLEFORD TO ENTER.
- YOUR WORK MUST BE YOUR OWN - NO CHEATING!
- THE WINNER MUST BE ABLE TO ATTEND CASTLEFORD LIBRARY