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 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Family Consultation evenings on Tuesday/Wednesday. There were lots of success to celebrate and I know how much the teachers value your support with your children's learning at home. If you were unable to attend your consultation, please do contact your child's teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time for an appointment. Parents of children in 1W, Miss Wilson will be in touch after the half term break to rearrange her appointments with you all.

Early Years Open Evening

We are delighted to be hosting an opening evening for prospective early years (Nursery and Reception) parents on Wednesday 18th November at 3.45pm-4.45pm Please ensure you email the office to register your place. There will be a chance to explore our indoor and outdoor areas and speak to key staff in our Early Years settings. Please spread the word to any families you know that may be interested in a place in either Nursery or Reception and ask them to email our school office for more details.

Uniform update

I have had a few questions regarding school uniform over the past couple of weeks so thought it would be useful to clarify the current plan with school uniform changes that you may have read about in the news recently:
As part of our commitment to providing the best possible environment for our pupils, we are currently reviewing our uniform policy to ensure it offers the best balance of quality, brand identity, and—most importantly—value for money for our families.
What this means for you:

- **No Immediate Change:** There are no changes to the uniform requirements for your child at this time. Please continue to follow our school's current uniform policy for the upcoming term.
- **Trial Phase:** To test new designs and supplier efficiency, we are running a pilot program at Girnhill Infant School, one of our partner schools in the Inspire partnership.
- **Future Updates:** We are currently consulting with suppliers and will have more information to share with you during the next academic year.

We understand that uniform costs are a significant consideration for households, and we are committed to a transparent process with plenty of notice before any future changes are introduced and will be in touch to consult with parents in due course.

Staffing Update
Today we said farewell to Mrs Dingwall who has been a crucial part of our office team on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Dingwall leaves us to take up a new role supporting attendance at a secondary school - we are very proud of Mrs DIngwall for pushing herself to take on a new challenge but she will be greatly missed. We are pleased that Mrs Southernwood (TA in EYFS/KS1) will be taking on Mrs Dingwall's role in the office but this does mean we won't see Mrs Southernwood in our classrooms anymore. We wish both ladies every success in their new roles.

Bonfire Themed Menu
The kitchen team have asked me to share the poster at the end of this newsletter with a special Bonfire themed menu taking place on Thursday 5th November. Meals should be ordered via SwiftKitchen in the usual way by 9:30am each day.

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. We are unable to accept any ticket requests after this deadline.
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.

Online Safety:
This week's online safety poster is focussed on age ratings and the importance of children (and adults) understanding the different types of age ratings we have and why we use these. Particularly near Halloween it can be tempting to allow children to watch horror themed programmes and content. This helpful guide from the National College will hopefully support your decision making in what is appropriate content for your children.

Polling Day
We have been given notice that the 6th May 2027 will be a polling day in which school will be closed to pupils to allow polling to take place. Whilst we know this is not ideal, unfortunately these days are out of our control. Nearer the time we will contact Year 6 families to offer additional support in school on this day as we appreciate this is the week before their SATS tests and is a crucial time for their learning following the half term break.

Hello Yellow:
A big thank you for all your contributions as part of Hello Yellow Day, to raise money for Young minds, we were delighted to present Young Minds with a cheque for £179.60 which we know will make a difference to their vital work.

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Remembrance Sunday – 11th November 2026

Poppies will be available for sale around the Classrooms each day from Tuesday 3rd November. Any donations to this worthy cause is greatly appreciated.

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

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	98%
Reception – Mr Smith	98%
Year 1 – Miss Wilson	97%
Year 1/2 – Mrs Turfrey	95%
Year 2 – Miss Moorby	96%
Year 3 – Miss Briscoe	★ 100% ★
Year 3/4 - Miss Naylor	94%
Year 4 – Miss Stanton	96%
Year 5 – Miss Gibbins	99%
Year 5/6 – Mrs Longoni	99%
Year 6 – Miss Lynch	95%

I can't quite believe it is time for the half term holidays already, one of our longest half terms of the year has come to a close with so many successes and reasons to celebrate and smile. I know we are all ready for a well deserved rest and some important family time doing the things we enjoy the most. However you are spending your half term, enjoy making memories and we look forward to welcoming you all back into school on Monday 2nd November. Have a wonderful half term.

Mr Ivel, Headteacher

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, ghints and tips for adults.

Part of our Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Series

Brought to you by National Online Safety

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What you need to know about... AGE RATINGS



What are they?

'Age Ratings'

A game's age rating can be used by adults to make an informed choice as to whether or not a game is suitable for their child. The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system rates games and, instead of indicating the level of ability required to physically play a game, it indicates the suitability of content for that age group. 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 are the labels that can be awarded to games and a variety of content descriptors such as violence, bad language and fear are used to further clarify why the label was assigned.



Know the Risks

Inappropriate content

The biggest and most obvious risk of not following the age rating system is that children may view or hear age-inappropriate content. Many games now include scenes of a violent or graphic nature which could be upsetting or considered too intense for younger players.

Peer pressure

Peer pressure has a large role to play in age ratings being overlooked. Children don't want to be the ones left behind and can put their parents under pressure to allow them to play a game beyond the recommended suitability, especially when all of their friends are playing it already.

Level of 'Kudos'

Playing a game with a label that is higher than their age can be viewed by some children as a challenge and to gain a good reputation amongst friends. Kudos is attributed to the child playing the age inappropriate game resulting in more children wanting to follow suit.

Free Platforms

In order for a game to be released on popular platforms, such as PlayStation and Xbox, game developers must pay for a PEGI rating. However, smaller development teams are sometimes reluctant to pay these fees and games are often released on other platforms, such as Steam, without any age restrictions.

Spot the Signs

Being vague

Be aware of children being vague around the content of what they want to play. If they are unwilling to supply you with information about what the game is about, this can be an indicator that you wouldn't allow them to purchase it if you knew.

Unofficial sites

There are plenty of indie games that can be bought using online stores that don't necessarily have age restrictions. If you notice your child using sites such as GOG or itch.io rather than official channels such as the Google Play Store, they might be accessing games that aren't officially rated but still aren't age appropriate.

Unfamiliar terminology

Your child might start using phrases or terminology that is new to them or mimicking actions that they have learnt from a game without realising their inappropriateness.

Wanting to be secluded

Be aware if suddenly your child wants the device that they play their games on into a more secluded area of the house away from adults. It is a good idea for your child to play online games in shared area where you can see the screen.

Be aware of spending

Setting up accounts with online stores require bank account details. Keeping an eye on your bank balance means that you will be able to tell if there has been a new purchase and can provide you with an opportunity to ask about what new game they've purchased.

Safety Tips

Do your research

If you've noticed a new game that your child has downloaded then use quality resources to make sure that your knowledge is up to date. Online websites, such as National Online Safety, can provide you with the information you need.

Review parental controls

Review your parental controls on the stores where you buy games from. Most sites allow parents to set passwords to block games with certain age restrictions from being downloaded.

Encourage open dialogue

Encourage open dialogue with your child. You don't want to be in position where they won't talk to you if something has made them feel uncomfortable in a game because they are worried they will get in trouble for playing the game in the first place.

Discuss ratings

Talk to your child about why the game has been awarded a certain label. Debate the positives and negatives of playing a game and decide on some ground rules together.

Our Expert



Heather Cardwell

Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding online and educating children around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.07.2020

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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