CASTLE HILL
Academy

A PLATANOS TRUST SCHOOL

Newsletter

30th October 2026

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

We had a fantastic first half term at Castle Hill Academy! Thank you to all our families for your continued support. It was wonderful to see so much learning, progress and creativity across the school, and we are incredibly proud of our pupils.

Congratulations to our **CHABOP winners last term**! Please also encourage your children to take part in our **International Space Week competition**. We can't wait to see their fantastic creations. Entries must be submitted by **Friday 6th November**, with merits and special prizes on offer.

Admire the beautiful watercolour painting by **Rio Mensah-Brenner in Year 5** below, inspired by the artist Paul Cézanne. Well done, Rio!

We hope all our families had a restful and enjoyable half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November.

Warm regards,

The Castle Hill Academy Team



Attitude Determines Altitude

TEAM GB GYMNMAST VISIT

Castle Hill Academy was thrilled to welcome Team GB gymnast Sam Mostofi to inspire our pupils! Sam led every class through an exciting movement circuit, encouraging children to get active, challenge themselves and discover the importance of perseverance. He then delivered an inspirational assembly, sharing his experiences as a gymnast and reminding pupils that with hard work, determination and a positive attitude, they can achieve great things. The highlight of the assembly was an incredible backflip over Mr Tope, which left the children amazed and cheering with excitement! One pupil commented, “I couldn’t believe he jumped over Mr Tope!” while another said, “I want to be a gymnast when I grow up!” A third pupil reflected, “It showed me that if you keep practising, you can get better.” Sam’s visit was a fantastic opportunity to bring our motto, “Attitude Determines Altitude,” to life and left our pupils feeling motivated, inspired and ready to aim high!







YEAR 1 HISTORY WORKSHOP – TOYS OF THE PAST

In their History lessons, Year 1 have been learning about 'Changes within living memory'. As part of this, pupils enjoyed an interactive workshop about how toys have changed over time.



"I enjoyed playing with the old toys and seeing how much they have changed over time."

Year 1 pupil





“I like some of the old toys better than mine! They are fun.”



VISITING POET – KATHRYN BEEVOR

To celebrate National Poetry Day, Castle Hill Academy was delighted to welcome visiting poet Kathryn Beevor to inspire our young writers! Kathryn led exciting poetry workshops with pupils across the school, encouraging them to explore their creativity, experiment with language and write their own poems.

The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their ideas, asking thoughtful questions and discovering how poetry can be used to express their thoughts, feelings and imaginations. Kathryn was particularly impressed by the children's enthusiasm and the quality of their questions.

One pupil commented, "I didn't know you could write a poem about anything!" while another said, "I loved making up my own poem!" A third pupil shared, "I want to write more poems now!" It was a wonderful way to celebrate the joy of poetry, bring writing to life and inspire our pupils to express themselves through words.



DOVES CLASS GARDEN

Doves class have been busy nurturing their garden, and it has truly thrived! The children have enjoyed watching their plants grow and have successfully grown their own pumpkin, tomatoes, cucumbers and a variety of herbs.

It has been a wonderful hands-on learning experience, giving pupils the opportunity to explore nature, learn about how food grows and take pride in caring for their outdoor space. We are so proud of their green fingers and look forward to seeing what they grow next!



YEAR 3 TRIP TO HEVER CASTLE

Year 3 had a fantastic trip to Hever Castle as part of their topic on British monarchs. The pupils explored the beautiful castle and gardens, learned all about the life of Anne Boleyn, and saw first-hand how the Tudors lived. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life!

"I loved seeing the moat and learning that Anne Boleyn used to live there!"



"We saw models of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn - they looked real!"









YEAR 4 ROMAN DAY

Our Year 4s immersed themselves in Roman Times as part of their History lessons this term. They came dressed in traditional Roman attire and met a Roman gladiator.



"I enjoyed learning about Roman times"
Year 4 pupil



YEAR 2 SCIENCE

Year 2 have been budding scientists as they explored the school grounds in search of minibeasts! The children carefully investigated different habitats, looking under leaves, around plants and beneath logs to see what tiny creatures they could discover. They discussed what they found and thought about why minibeasts choose particular places to live.

It was a fantastic hands-on science lesson that encouraged curiosity, observation and a deeper understanding of the natural world. The children loved being outdoors and discovering just how many little creatures share our school grounds!





TOP TIPS FOR SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON PHONES



How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS

iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
5. Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
5. Scroll down to Game Centre
6. Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
5. Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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RECEPTION 2027 ADMISSIONS



OUR CHABOP DAY AWARD WINNERS

Attitude Determines Altitude

We would like to congratulate our autumn term 1 award winners.

Our CHABOP Day awards are used to recognise pupils' achievement. Pupils can gain merits (or demerits) for **Classwork, Homework, Attendance, Behaviour, Organisation** and **Punctuality.**

Pupils receive CHABOP awards at the end of every half term. As always, only pupils that uphold a high standard of behaviour throughout the term take part in our CHABOP Day.

PRIZE – MOUNTAIN BIKE 175+ NET MERITS	
Winner	Isabella Smith-Maynard
Winner	Ava Agyekum

PRIZE – Tablet device 125+ MERITS	
Winner	Souleymane Bah Jalloh
Winner	Hafsa Awan

£80 All4one vouchers 90+ MERITS	
Winner	Azaan Faruque
Winner	Antonio Costi

£50 All4one vouchers 60+ MERITS	
Winner	Honey Farnon
Winner	Jack Pillai



£30 All4one vouchers 50+ MERITS	
Ibrahim Bah	Logan McAdam
Tazmeen Bazi	Sarina Mohammad

PRIZE – Art Supplies 25+ MERITS			
Oreofeoluwa Adekunle	Dolcie Greenfield-Davis	Erin-Jade Williamson	Marwah Bah
Ariana Robinson	Odin Nkosi	Vinnie Mitchell	David Szczepanski

PRIZE – Stationery sets 15+ MERITS			
Isaac Woodley	Nasir-Zion Mitchell	Bilal Amani	Tayla Flynn
Lia Rahman	Xavion-Zehmeil Burton-Wright-Shepherd	Tenayah Lewis-Gordon	Jayden Marfo
A'lanyah Burton-Wright-Shepherd	Billy-Jay Gardiner	Osman Mobarez	Brody Letts



lass	Reading Awards
Nursery – Storyteller Award	Ava Agyekum
Reception - Hedgehogs	Aadhi Sathyathas
Year 1 Puffins	Vinnie Mitchell
Year 2 Eagles	Ibrahim Bah
Year 3 Deers	Miya Flynn
Year 4 Otters	Fihiima Abdi
Year 5 Beavers	Torey McDonald-Palmer and Suhayla Jones
Year 6 Foxes	Souleymane Bah Jalloh
Robins	Blake Letts
Sparrows	Jaylen Yohuno
Magpies	Makara Keo
Doves	Wael Shariif-Ali
Owls	Kane Mean
Kites	RickyLee

Class	Writing Awards
Nursery – Mark Maker Award	Jax Drummond
Reception - Hedgehogs	Ariana Robinson
Year 1 Puffins	Andre Ughanze
Year 2 Eagles	Alaya De Freitas
Year 3 Deers	Muizah Aderemi
Year 4 Otters	Manuela Tei
Year 5 Beavers	Sofia Pepper and Tazmeen Bazi
Year 6 Foxes	Stephen Ampadu
Robins	Nasir-Zion Mitchell
Sparrows	Sam Williamson
Magpies	Atticus Williams
Doves	Wael Shariif-Ali
Owls	Isabel Otero
Kites	Omeilo

Class	Maths Awards
Nursery – Investigator Award	Khalil Bazi
Reception - Hedgehogs	Abdur-Raqeeb Johur
Year 1 Puffins	Vinnie Mitchell
Year 2 Eagles	Muhammad Kamara
Year 3 Deers	Muqeet Adesokan
Year 4 Otters	Abram Faruque
Year 5 Beavers	Khadijah Jalloh and Eesa Lacko
Year 6 Foxes	Samad Bello-Odoffin
Robins	Davaine Forbes
Sparrows	Tyrone Bernards
Magpies	Ebrahim Dawood
Doves	Zane Reid
Owls	Logan McAdam
Kites	Kian

Class	Kindness Awards
Nursery	Khadijah Jalloh
Reception - Hedgehogs	Mina Rahman
Year 1 Puffins	Lillie-Rose Alessandro
Year 2 Eagles	Violet-Louise Gwyther
Year 3 Deers	Mia McGowan
Year 4 Otters	SaraJane Asare
Year 5 Beavers	Layla Banton and Salma Bangura
Year 6 Foxes	Leila Hartley-Perino
Robins	Brody Letts
Sparrows	Zoe Seyi
Magpies	Atticus Williams
Doves	Bobbie Basquine
Owls	Logan McAdam
Kites	Eli

Class	Spoken Language Awards
Nursery	Roman Watson
Reception - Hedgehogs	Safah Bah
Year 1 Puffins	Alfonso Miron

Year 2 Eagles	Hajaadama Jalloh
Year 3 Deers	Lucas Pepper
Year 4 Otters	Aston Hartley-Perino
Year 5 Beavers	Sahil Johur, Ilyas Liban and Sultan Pardesi
Year 6 Foxes	Joel Edwards
Robins	Abena Boateng-Antwi
Sparrows	Obinna Nwabeze
Magpies	Rihshae Gobern
Doves	Roman Malin
Owls	Teddy Reeves
Kites	Nathan

Class	Capital Letters & Full Stops Award
Year 1 Puffins	Alfonso Miron
Year 2 Eagles	Amelia Ringson
Year 3 Deers	Hunter Jones
Year 4 Otters	Kyra Elvin
Year 5 Beavers	Emily Thomas and Avril-Louise Russell
Year 6 Foxes	Caitlin Hickmott
Sparrows	Sam Williamson
Magpies	Ezra Opoku

Doves	Wael Shariif-Ali
Owls	Evan Abreu
Kites	Max

Class	Citizenship Award
Nursery – Best Role Model	Mya Johnson
Reception - Hedgehogs	Millie Pearce-Atkinson
Year 1 Puffins	Lola Otero
Year 2 Eagles	Connie Layne
Year 3 Deers	Annalya-Maria Miron
Year 4 Otters	Elyas Sakhi-Zadah
Year 5 Beavers	Alfie Bentley Rowles and Freddie Portwin
Year 6 Foxes	Aaron Scott
Sparrows	Rey Cota
Magpies	Aaron Guzadhur
Doves	Kobe Brimble
Owls	Daniel Lam
Kites	Freddie

Class	Well-Being Awards
Reception	Dolcie Greenfield-Davis
Year 1 Puffins	Elliot Burke
2 Eagles	Joshua Smith-Maynard
3 Deers	Zayn Ali
4 Otters	Nariah Francis
5 Beavers	Ayanna Miron and Jamie Nguyen
6 Foxes	Stephanie Naumova
Robins	Maliq Makanjuola
Sparrows	Jaylen Yohuno
Magpies	George Thompsett
Owls	Amarion Quartey-Sey
Kites	Isabel Otero

Class	Attitude Determines Altitude Awards
Nursery – Explorer Award	Roman Nkosi
Reception - Hedgehogs	Brodie Broughton
Year 1 Puffins	Elliot Burke
Year 2 Eagles	Nyah Costi
Year 3 Deers	Layla-Rose Ward
Year 4 Otters	Sophia Smith-Maynard
Year 5 Beavers	Hafsa Awan and Summer Richardson

Year 6 Foxes	Sienna Brunwin
Robins	Jayden Marfo
Sparrows	Jack Pillai
Magpies	Atticus Williams
Owls	Kane Mean
Kites	Eli

Class	Sports Awards
Nursery	Darius Ughanze
Reception - Hedgehogs	Abdoulaye Bah Jalloh
Year 1 Puffins	Alfonso Miron
Year 2 Eagles	Muhammad Kamara
Year 3 Deers	Zayn Ali
Year 4 Otters	SaraJane Asare
Year 5 Beavers	Jalal Salami
Year 6 Foxes	Aaron Scott
Robins	Isaac-Paul Woodley
Sparrows	Zoe Seyi
Magpies	Rihshae Gobern
Doves	Bobbie Basquine
Owls	Kane Mean
Kites	Omeilo Haynes

Class	Art Awards
Nursery	Daisy Fraser
Reception - Hedgehogs	Nellie-Rae Greenfield-Davis
Year 1 Puffins	Alfonso Miron
Year 2 Eagles	Lyndsey Woodjetts
Year 3 Deers	Queenette Berkai
Year 4 Otters	Isabella Smith-Maynard
Year 5 Beavers	Sahil Johur and Rio Mensah-Brenner
Year 6 Foxes	Sienna Brunwin
Robins	Kyra Kumassah
Sparrows	Jack Pillai
Magpies	David Szczepanski
Owls	Arshan Faruque

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INTERNATIONAL SPACE WEEK COMPETITION

Dream
Explore
Discover

Get creative, explore, discover and show us your space skills!

CHOOSE ONE OF 5 CHALLENGES:

1 MAKE YOUR OWN ROCKET

Design and create your own rocket using recycled materials or any materials you like. Get creative with the look, features and name!



2 THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Create a model or drawing of the solar system. You could use different materials, paint, clay, or get creative with your artwork!



3 SPACE ROCKET HISTORY TIMELINE

Research and create a timeline of key moments in space rocket history. You could include important dates, people, rockets and milestones.



4 SPACE-THEMED 3D MODEL

Build a 3D model of anything space related – a planet, moon, space station, rover, alien, astronaut or even your own space base!



5 POSTER OR COLLAGE

Create a poster or collage about space. This could be about a planet, space mission, a famous astronaut, life in space or why space is important.



Let your imagination blast off!

FANTASTIC PRIZES!

Merits will be awarded to all participants, with special prizes for the winners!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

We can't wait to see what you create!

Attitude Determines Altitude

WEATHER – BEING PREPARED!

As we enter the winter months, we politely request that all pupils bring a suitable warm and waterproof coat to school with them. At break-times and lunch-times, all pupils go outside to play, if it is safe enough.

Please remind your child to bring their coat with them every day, as even if it is warm and dry at the beginning of the day, the weather might change by break-time.

Hats, gloves and scarves are also allowed to be worn outside as the weather gets colder.



TIMES TABLES

We are continuing our drive with maths and times tables across the school.

- The Year 4 Multiplications Check is a **compulsory online test carried out nationally** for all Year 4 pupils. **This will be held in June 2027** and is to assess whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently.
- Knowing the multiplication tables allows pupils to develop further maths and problem-solving skills.

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

- To help your child further with the times tables, remind them to use **Times Tables Rockstars** at (https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student).
- The mobile app is also available on Amazon, Android and Apple. **Children can login using their same login details.**

READING RECORDS

Our pupils enjoy reading and there are many opportunities for pupils to read while at school. Pupils enjoy the library sessions each week. Reading every day helps pupils to understand their learning.

Start of term reminders:

- Pupils will continue to bring their **Reading Records** and a reading book home every day.
- We kindly ask that parents (or those pupils with an older sibling) **sign the Reading Record daily** when you listen to the child read.
- Pupils are required to **bring their Reading Record back to school each day** with their book. Our teachers are checking the Reading Records daily.

Demerits for unsigned Reading Records if this is frequent.

- A reminder letter will be sent home each week and demerits will be given to pupils whose Reading Records are not signed on more than one day each week.
- Please do not hesitate to contact the school if there are any questions.

UNIFORM REMINDER

As a reminder for the beginning of the term, please be reminded of the school uniform:

- School jumper/cardigan/school fleece
- Grey skirt/trousers/pinafore dress
- White polo shirt
- Black shoes

Please note that hoodies (in any colour) are not part of the school uniform.

On PE days, pupils can come to school wearing their PE kit, which consists of:

- Dark jogging bottoms/shorts
- White t-shirt
- Dark trainers

Due to the unpredictable weather at the beginning of term, pupils should bring their jumper/cardigan or a coat.

PE DAYS

A reminder that the PE days for our different classes are as below. On their PE day only, pupils can come to school wearing their PE kit.

Class	Day
Nursery	Tuesday (AM) and Tuesday(PM)
Reception	Tuesday
Year 1	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 2	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 3	Monday and Wednesday
Year 4	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 5	Wednesday and Friday
Year 6	Friday
Robins	Tuesday
Sparrows	Friday
Magpies	Friday
Owls	Friday
Kites	Friday
Doves	Friday

KEY DATES | AUTUMN TERM 2

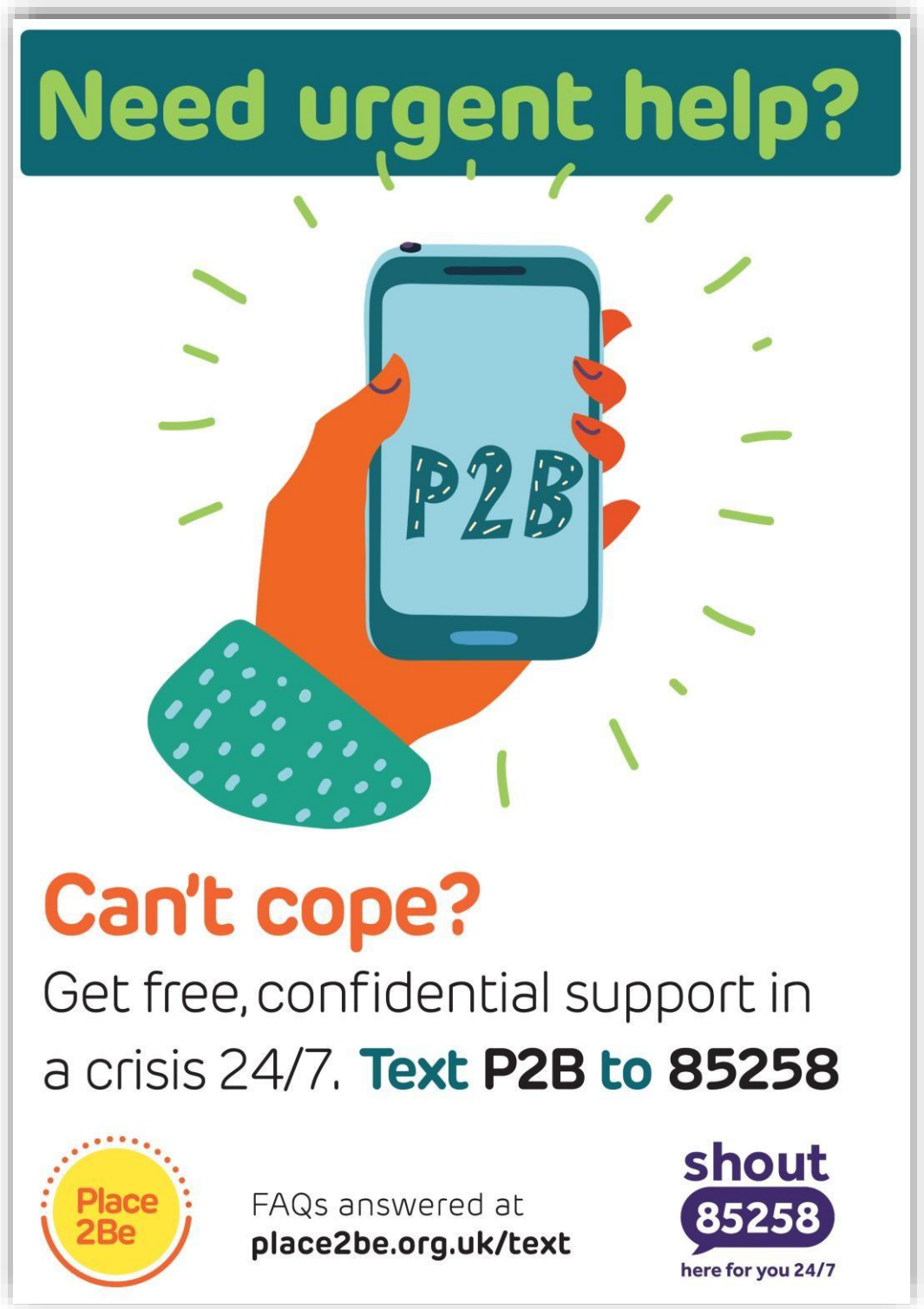
Please note that the dates below are subject to change.

EVENT	DATE
Term Resumes	Monday 2 November
Book Fair Starts	Thursday 5 November
Remembrance Service	Wednesday 11 November
Year 2 Visit to British Wildlife Centre	Thursday 12 November
Anti Bullying Week	Monday 16 – Friday 20 November
Early Years Story Hunt Workshop	Wednesday 18 November Reception 9am -10am, Nursery 10:15am - 11:15am
Children in Need	Friday 20 November
Geography Awareness Week	23–27 November
Place2Be Coffee Morning Parent Workshop	Tuesday 8 December
Year 2 Workshop (The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark)	Tuesday 8 December 9:45 - 10:45 (Main hall)
Reception & Nursery Winter Wonderland (am and pm)	Wednesday 9 December
Winter Fair & Christmas Jumper Day (Mufti Day)	Friday 11 December
KS1 Nativity Play (Both Year Groups)	Tuesday 15 December 2:15pm
Christmas Dinner	Wednesday 16 December
Reception & Robins Trip to Churchill Theatre	Wednesday 16 December 10:30am
Oak Christmas Show	Wednesday 16 December 2:15pm
Discos	Thursday 17 December Oak & Reception 3:00–4:00 Years 1–3 3:10–4:15 Years 4–6 4:25–5:30
CHABOP Day & Assembly (11:00–12:00) & Class Parties	Friday 18 December
Term Ends	Friday 18 December (1:30pm finish)

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT

Mental health support is very important when one is experiencing challenging times. This can occur at any time, whether during term time or the holiday periods.

We are taking this opportunity to provide a reminder that our provider, Place2Be, have a free 24/7 text service that provides confidential support.



Exclusive to schools supported by Place2Be

Parenting Smart – Online Course

Parents and Carers of 4-11 year olds are invited to join our **free** online course offering extra parenting tools to **support children's wellbeing** and help them **deal with childhood challenges.**

These tools are proven to help children manage their emotions better, follow routines and improve relationships with friends and family.

Designed to fit around busy family lives, this 4-week course consists of **8 short online modules of 30 minutes each,** easily accessible from a mobile phone, at any time.

Place2Be Family Practitioners will be on hand throughout your time on the course to guide your learning and **answer your questions.** You will also have the opportunity to join discussions with other parents and carers from across the UK and learn from each other.

- Free
- No fixed times
- Accessible from any device
- Hear from other parents around the UK
- Place2Be professional on hand to support learning



Learn more at
place2be.org.uk/family

Or scan me

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

All time off school equates to missed learning time. Please make sure your child is in school every day. Thank you.



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