



Starting School Hand Book



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Dear Parent /Carer,

Welcome to Castle Primary School. We are delighted you have chosen our school for your child and look forward to working closely with you and your family throughout the coming years.

Our school motto:

Adventure together; learn forever

Our Values:

We aim to provide a relevant, interesting, varied and challenging curriculum for all pupils at Castle School by encouraging:

Consideration: Promoting a respect and understanding of ourselves, each other and the natural world.

Adventure: Providing an environment where children learn to take responsibility for their own actions and are safe to take risks.

Self-sufficiency: Promoting learners who are equipped to make informed choices in their learning and life.

Teamwork: Developing pupils' awareness of their place within the locality and the worldwide community.

Learning: Providing a rich learning environment, which engages pupils' curiosity and creativity.

Excellence: Promoting high standards in literacy English and Mathematical ability, which enables each pupil to raise their personal aspirations

Our curriculum is designed to engage our children in wondering about their environment, people, places and circumstances. We want our children to be enthusiastic, self-reflective learners who are free to take risks and learn from their mistakes. For this to happen our curriculum must be an exciting one; one where there is something worth finding out about, one that is supportive of struggle and rewards effort and perseverance in the pursuit of excellence.

The School Day

The school day begins at 8.50am and ends at 3.10pm for EYFS and 3.15pm for the rest of the school.

What does your child need to bring to school?

There are certain items which need to be in school with your child every day. Please help your child to be independent and organised, and to remember these things so he/she is not anxious or upset about not having them.

- Book bag with reading book and green Homework Diary
- A waterproof coat – we encourage learning and play outside, whatever the weather!
- Welly boots – ideally a named pair which can be left in school
- A drink's bottle (water only please) which can be accessed throughout the day
- A named lunch box if your child is having a packed lunch

PLEASE make sure everything your child brings to school is named clearly – it will save so much time and worry for both your child and us.

We encourage children to leave toys and special items at home – they can get broken or lost which can be very distressing for your child.

Our School Uniform

We encourage all the children at our school to wear our uniform – this gives them a sense of belonging and pride in our school community.

Our uniform consists of;

- Green jumper/school sweatshirt with logo/cardigan
- White polo shirt/blouse/shirt
- Grey or black trousers/skirt/pinafore dress
- Black shoes (Velcro fastenings are ideal, especially for young children who struggle with laces!)



Uniform is available to buy from:

Thomas Moore, 102/104 Fore St, Exeter, EX4 3JB. Please note not all uniform is available from the shop. <https://www.thomasmooretoymaster.com/product-category/school-uniform-shop/> This link takes you to an online ordering service.

PE Kit

EYFS children will not require a PE kit until the Summer Term

- Trainers (these are better than plimsolls as they provide better support to the foot and ankle)
- White T-shirt or PE shirt
- Black PE shorts
- When cold in the winter a Tracksuit/Sweatshirt & Jogging bottoms are also useful

Please send your child's PE kit in a suitable drawstring bag (**not** a large rucksack) please ensure the bag and all items are named.



School Meals (Now only £2.25)

All our school meals are cooked and prepared on site each day by our kitchen team. Please take a look at our most recent menu on the school website. Each morning during registration your child will be asked what they would like for their lunch.

If your child has a special dietary requirement, please do not hesitate to let us know as our kitchen team will vary the school menu to meet their needs.

School meals must be paid for in advance or on the day the meal is taken via The School Gateway App, instructions on how to pay are supplied with your welcome pack.

Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents and carers are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional funding to support learning. It also entitles you to further savings and benefits, particularly if we ever have another 'Lockdown' situation.

If you are in receipt of any of the benefits below, it is likely you will be entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

How to apply:

Please complete the Free School Meal form in your welcome pack and we can check your entitlement for you!

Learning at Home

We actively encourage you to be aware of and involved in what your child is learning at school, and we provide opportunities for all children to extend their learning at home. Your child will bring home;

- A green Reading Journal (**Please record when you have read with your child in this journal**). We also welcome any other comments about how you feel your child is getting on at school.
- A Reading Book (books are changed weekly but your child will need his/her book in school every day)
- A library book for you and your child to share (this is also changed weekly)
- Home Learning – this will be sent home with your child each week and is usually a pick and mix selection of activities.

How can you help with Home Learning?

Taking an interest in your child's day is the best support you can give. Reading with your child, helping with sounds and words, and sharing books helps them to develop their early reading skills. Short sessions when your child is not too tired and there are no distractions, always work best. Taking an interest in the weekly Home Learning task and encouraging your child to complete it is very helpful to us. We always appreciate your feedback on any activities set.

And finallythe little 'useful bits'

- If your child is ill, please let the school know, ideally by 9.15am on the first day of illness. There is somebody in the office from 8.00am but you can leave a message on our answerphone. If you don't phone us, we will text or phone you 😊
- If at any time you have a concern or problem, please do not hesitate to talk to us. Teachers are always around at the beginning and end of the day, or you can make an appointment to meet with us. We really value you as parents and carers, and appreciate your input and feedback.
- You can contact the school, Head teacher (Mrs Cathy Noble) by telephone: 01884 253398 or email: admin@castletiverton.school
- You will often find all the information you need on our school website www.castletiverton.school which is updated regularly or in our School Newsletter.
- Don't forget to check our school facebook page where we celebrate our pupils' achievements.

If there is anything we have not covered in this Hand Book or you have any further questions about our school, please do not hesitate to ask.

