



Adventure together,
learn forever

Starting School Handbook

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.

Mr Paddon
(Head Teacher)



We aim to provide a relevant, interesting, varied and challenging curriculum for all pupils





ADVENTURE TOGETHER; LEARN FOREVER

Starting School

The school gates open at 8.35am and the school day begins at 8.45am
Arriving after this time is considered late (arrival after 9.15am is unauthorised).

If your child is ill, please let the school know, ideally by 9.15am on the first day of illness.
There is someone in the office from 8.15am but you can leave a message on our answerphone or submit a message through MyChildatSchool (MCAS). If we do not hear from you we will text or telephone you.

The school day ends at 3.15pm.

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 mark your child's name in all their belonging so items can be returned to them.

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

Uniform with our logo is available to buy from Thomas Moore, 102/104 Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3JB.
www.thomasmooretoymaster.com

Please note not all uniform needs to be purchased from this supplier.



Sports Kit

EYFS children will not require a sports kit until the Summer Term.

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

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



All our school meals are cooked and prepared on site each day by our kitchen team. Please check the school website www.castletiverton.school for our most recent menu and allergen matrix. If your child has any special dietary requirements, please ensure you let us know and you check the allergen matrix before ordering your child's meal. Meals are ordered via our MCAS app (My Child at School), you will be sent a link to create an account.

School meals must be ordered and paid for in advance or on the day the meal is taken. The cost of a school meal is £2.60.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. You will still need to access My Child at School or order lunches and to pay for other events and items.

Free School Meals

The process of applying for free school meals is changing from September 2026. All pupils whose parents are in receipt of Universal Credit above the threshold of £7,400 will receive **Extended Free School Meals**. This will entitle them to a free school meal only and the school does not receive any additional funding.

All pupils whose parents meet the criteria below, will be entitled to free school meals and the school will receive additional funding called Pupil Premium to support learning, including discounting some activities and educational trips for children entitled to FSMs.

If you think you are entitled to free school meals, please apply through the Devon County Council Citizen Portal - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/administration-and-finance/administration/free-school-meals/>

Who is eligible for free school meals?

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

- Income Support • Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of 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 four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Our Values: The 3Rs

Resilience

We encourage perseverance and a positive mindset, helping children to embrace challenges and learn from mistakes. Resilience enables our pupils to grow in confidence and develop the skills needed for lifelong learning.

Respect

We foster a culture of kindness, empathy and responsibility. Being respectful means valuing diversity, listening to others and contributing positively to our school and wider community.

Reach

We inspire ambition and curiosity, motivating pupils to aim high and explore new opportunities. Reaching beyond what is comfortable ensures every child can flourish and achieve excellence.



Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to engage our children in exploring their environment and learning about people and places.

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 exciting; aimed at discovery, rewarding and enjoyable.



"Castle Primary School is a caring and inclusive place to learn. The 'Castle values of consideration, aspiration and teamwork are clear in all that pupils do. Pupils are polite and kind. Parents are proud of the nurturing ethos that leaders provide. They say that their children settle into school well and look forward to attending each day"

Ofsted 2023

Learning at Home

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

- A 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 library books all helps to develop your child's 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.

How to contact us

Email: admin@castletiverton.school

Website: www.castletiverton.school

Telephone: 01884 253398

My Child at School

Follow us on:

Facebook : Castle Primary School

Instagram : [castleprimarytiverton](https://www.instagram.com/castleprimarytiverton)
where we celebrate pupil achievements

Castle Primary School
Barrington Street
TIVERTON
Devon
EX16 6QR

Any Concerns

If you have any concerns, please email your child's class teacher (the emails are listed on the school website) or contact the school admin team, who will be happy to help