

Information for Parents

of Children in

Years 3 and 4



CASTLE PARK SCHOOL

Learning For Life

Class teachers: Miss Shaw, Mr Tennant, Ms Thwaites
and Mrs Brooks

HLTA/PPA Cover: Mrs Gaskarth

Dear Year 3 and 4 Parents,

Things you should know...

- ✓ In the morning, your child should be brought to the appropriate door. They will enter the building by themselves. Year 4 can walk to school by themselves if this is something you feel is appropriate for your child. Please use ClassDojo if you need to speak to your child's teacher. A meeting will be arranged if we feel this is appropriate.
- ✓ Your child will receive spellings each week which they are expected to take home and learn. The spellings are often grouped, i.e. ea words, so you can talk with your child about spelling patterns.
- ✓ Your child has a reading record book in which **they** are expected to record their reading progress. These are checked each week and are also needed during their Guided Reading sessions throughout the week.
- ✓ The national expectation is that by the end of Year 4 children should know their times tables to x12. By 'know' we mean be able to recall a fact like 6 x 7 within 3 seconds.
- ✓ At the beginning of each half term your child will receive a list of Friday Challenges that they can do at home. They should aim to choose and complete one each week, but they do not need to complete all the challenges.
- ✓ The children need to have an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school **at all times**. Their kit should be plain navy/black shorts, a plain white t-shirt and pumps for indoors and plain dark sweatpants, a sweatshirt or fleece jumper and trainers for outdoors.
- ✓ School uniform details are on the website, but they stipulate black, flat shoes and plain dark tights.
- ✓ As a school that holds the 'Healthy Schools' Award, we ask that break time snacks are not chocolate or crisp based.

Curriculum enrichment

We try to make learning as exciting as possible and encourage the children to continue their learning at home. Normally we would have a variety of visits planned to support the children's education but due to the current COVID-19 situation, we are not able to do this. Our key topics this year are:

- Autumn term: Investigating life in Madagascar and Ancient Egypt, exploring plants, creating a batik t-shirt and a clay canopic jar.
- Spring term: Exploring the Tudor period and countries of the world, examining conductors and insulators and sound, plus drawing portraits and making muffins.
- Summer term: Delving into The Victorians, investigating electricity, light and shadows, examining Buddhism and creating our own electric lamps.

7 Easy ways to make a big difference

1. Encourage your child's reading – join the library, read with them, read to them, listen to audio books.
2. Help them learn their times tables and spellings at home.
3. Make sure they get plenty of sleep each night and come to school ready to learn, having eaten a healthy good breakfast.
4. Please provide you child with a non-spill named water bottle which is filled with water each day. Good hydration has been proven to help learning.
5. Look for opportunities to write. A little and often is better than intense sessions, but this practice can make a great difference.
6. Help the children develop their typing skills. This helps speed up learning in computing lessons. BBC Dance Mat typing program is free online.
7. Make sure children arrive on time in the morning. The doors normally open at 8.50am and learning starts straight away. We will inform you of any changes to the start and end times of the day.

We are really excited about the coming year and look forward to getting to know your children better in September.