



# Castor Church of England Primary School

Stocks Hill, Castor, Peterborough Cambs PE5 7AY  
Telephone: 01733 380280

7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome! I can't believe how quickly the last six weeks have gone. They really seem to have flown by. I do hope you had an enjoyable summer and were able to make the most of the sunshine and get outdoors to enjoy it. We certainly can't complain about the weather this year- it really has seemed as though we have had wall to wall sunshine for almost all of the summer.

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome back those of you who were with us last year and extend an especially large welcome to our new starters in Reception Class and those joining other year groups. I feel certain that whether your child is completely new to the school or just returning to a new class and teacher that this will be a fantastic year for each and everyone of our children as they take the next step in their educational journey. I know I am really excited about starting my first full academic year with the school and am very much looking forward to getting to know our new children and their parents and carers while also getting to know the rest of the school community even better over the coming weeks and months.

It has been absolutely wonderful to see the children returning to school so positively today. They are all so full of enthusiasm and look so smart in their new uniforms. It really is a joy to see.

As ever at the start of a new school term there are a few changes and reminders: firstly, we are especially delighted to welcome Miss Polson, our new Year One Teacher and the newly married Mrs Roberts (previously Miss Hughes) our Year Five teacher to the school's teaching team. They are both very experienced teachers and I know that they too are very excited to be joining us. We hope they will be very happy at Castor C of E Primary School and feel certain that they will be fantastic additions to our school family and be real assets to the school.

Secondly, you may or may not know that the government is committed to ensuring that all state funded maintained schools should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours per week. Fortunately, this will have little impact upon Castor C of E Primary School as we already offer a 6.5-hour day for five days a week.

However, we are concerned that despite the formal start of day being 8:45am, historically a number of children have regularly arrived later than this and are missing out on the first five or ten minutes of their first lesson. We have therefore as a staff decided that from this term onwards children will line up first thing with their class teachers and be escorted straight into school at 8:45am, the gates will then be locked at 8:50am. The school gates will continue to be opened from 8:35am. I appreciate that parking is at a premium, but hope you will do all you can to support the school with this and where possible either walk to school, cycle or car share.

You will also have noticed our new additions to the school grounds: the outdoor classroom, funded as a consequence of the hard fundraising work of the Friends of Castor School and kindly

*"We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us in order to achieve our full potential academically, emotionally, socially and physically, thereby empowering us all to make a positive difference to the world."*



Headteacher: Mrs Alice Edwards BA Hons (Primary Education), QTS, NPQH

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erected by Mr Hendry and his staff as well as a new climbing frame. The outdoor classroom is ready to use and will facilitate outdoor teaching and be a welcome quiet space for our children at break and lunchtime. Unfortunately, as yet we haven't had Health and Safety clearance for the play equipment, so children won't be able to use it just yet. We would therefore appreciate you ensuring that toddlers and pre-school children who are accompanying you at the start and end of the day, do not use it.

I hope that your child/children continue to thrive and flourish in school, however if you have any concerns that you feel need addressing ahead of Pupil Progress Meetings then please contact your class teacher (please email [secretary@castor.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@castor.peterborough.sch.uk) and Mrs Baxter-Edwards will pass on your concerns). In the unusual event that your concerns remain unresolved then please contact Miss Armstrong, our Curriculum and Well Being Leader.

### **Christian Values**

Our value for this term is kindness, which interestingly both the children, parents, carers and staff all agreed was the important value that they wanted the school to promote. The Bible is full of stories and verses raising the importance of kindness and Jesus himself encouraged us to love our neighbour as our self. We will therefore be focusing upon such stories and verses over the coming weeks and ask that you support us in also endorsing this value at home by taking photographs of your children performing acts of kindness and sending them into school with your children so they can share examples with their class. It is my hope that as they do these acts of kindness it will spread like wildfire and children and adults across the school will be increasingly blessed.

### **Harvest Festival and Reception Class Welcome Service**

Harvest Festival will be held in church on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September. As customary we anticipate the children bringing donations into school that can be donated to the local food bank. Beyond this I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome the children in our new Reception Class by giving each of them their own children's Bible kindly donated by the parishioners of St Kyneburgha's Church.

### **Bikeability**

Those children in Year 5 whose parents returned consent letters for Bikeability at the end of the Summer term will be participating in this during the week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> September. If you have returned a slip giving your child permission, please remember to bring their bike to school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Swimming**

Swimming lessons for Year 3 children will start on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Parents/carers will receive a letter about this shortly.

### **Dates for your Diaries**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 9am & 3.30pm** - Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Meetings for Parents (details already sent out)

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am** – Harvest Festival and Reception Children's Welcome Service in Church. All welcome. (Detailed above)

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October** – Flu Vaccination Programme in school – details to follow

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October** - Anna's Hope Fun Run around Peterborough – more details to follow

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October (4.30 – 6.30pm)** – Pupil Progress Update Meetings with teachers

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October (3.30 – 5.30pm)** – Pupil Progress Update Meetings with teachers

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October (inclusive)** – Half Term holiday

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November** – Flu Vaccination Programme in school catch up session – details to follow

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** – Children's Christmas Lunch and Festive Jumper Day (if you would like your KS2 child to have a lunch, please order through The Farm Kitchen)

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)** - EYFS & Year 1 Nativity Performance (1)

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)** – EYFS & Year 1 Nativity Performance (2)

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am** – School Christmas Service in Church all welcome

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)** – EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 6 – 7 pm** – Year 2 and KS2 Christmas Concert – details to follow

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December (morning)** – KS2 Christmas Party

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec** – last day of Autumn term

**Christmas Break** – children return to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 for the Spring term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Alice Edwards**

Headteacher



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