



Castleford Park Junior Academy

Medley Street
Castleford
West Yorkshire
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Wednesday, September 5th

Dear Parents or Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome the children back today and we hope you have had a fantastic holiday! We have made a few changes for the start of term, after consultation with parents, staff and pupils, which are outlined below. Also included, are key dates for term one and school key priorities that we are working towards. We look forward to working with you all in the coming year and hope to see you in school soon.

School key priorities

We will continue to work towards improving outcomes and progress for all pupils, considering their different starting points when they join us.	We will continue to improve teaching, learning and assessment so that provision in all subjects is good and much is outstanding.
We will continue to develop independent, resilient learners who also know how to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy.	We will continue to promote the importance of diversity, tolerance and respect within our community and the wider world.

Changes to behaviour systems

Mr Thorpe has assigned a person to each House Colour so that we can discuss the skills needed to be part of an effective team. Your children will still be allocated a colour but this will also be associated with the sports person chosen. The children will work together to earn house points weekly, which will contribute to a termly reward for the house in the lead and an end of year reward for the overall winners. House Points can be won for determination, bravery and focus within lessons and when in different parts of school.

Gold	Green	Blue	Red
Harry Kane	Jess Ennis-Hill	Nicola Adams	Mohamed Farah

Children also receive 'CBG's (Caught Being Good tickets) for their behaviour around school. These were previously entered into a weekly lottery to win a prize. Instead of this, children will earn CBG stickers, which will be recorded in their planner. These can be exchanged for fantastic prizes as they are saved up, ranging from 25 CBGs for a new CPJA pencil up to 300 CBGs for a £10 book voucher. We feel that this is a fairer system where every child is rewarded for their good behaviour, rather than relying on a lottery, and they can choose the reward they would like to receive.

The Behaviour Policy is available for you to read on our website and our school rules and behaviour systems are also explained in your child's planner – which they must bring to school each day. These are unfortunately delayed at the printers but should be with us by the middle of next week.

Primary Strategy
Director

Ms J Clarke

Headteacher

Miss K Law

Deputy
Headteacher

Mrs J Roberts

Assistant
Headteacher

Mr L Booth

Assistant
Headteacher

Miss S Duggan

School Business
Manager:

Mrs S Beedle

Chair of
Governors

Mr J Dossey



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Changes to homework

After discussion at Parent Forum, the way we approach some of our homework is changing. We will still expect children to focus weekly on building the basic skills they need for English and Maths (see table below) but we will also focus on mathematical fluency – posting a video which demonstrates what we will teach in the coming week. This allows children to practise and evaluate their skills so that they are more aware of what they need to improve at but also helps parents understand the way we are teaching specific calculations. For any parents who do not have regular access to the internet, we will also open up the ICT suite after school on Fridays for parents to pop in and watch the video that has been posted and to work with your child for half an hour on the strategy demonstrated if you would like to. **The videos will be available from next Friday through Bloomz and on our website.**

We believe that other experiences children have outside school –such as attending a range of clubs, taking part in different hobbies, seeing friends, visiting different places - are equally important in enriching a child’s life, so we believe homework should be essential, short burst activities that will have the most impact on improving pupil academic skills whilst at school.

Year group	Homework required
Year 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly spellings – on Friday for a test, the following Friday• Weekly times tables – practised throughout the week• Regular reading at least three times a week• This should include a range of texts as well as a school reader. Children’s vocabulary develops most effectively when they are able to read a range of things from well-loved fiction texts to newspapers!• A maths strategy video posted on Friday that will be the focus of the following week
Year 6	Year 6 may be given additional homework to support them in the revision process but this may not happen until at least the Spring term as we do not believe that Year 6 should just be a ‘build up’ to statutory testing and we do not want to put the children under pressure in this way.

Again, our Homework Policy is also available in full on our website for you to read.

Changes to reception

Reception will only be available until 3:30pm after school to answer enquiries and address any questions that you may have. If you need to speak to a teacher or other member of staff after this time, please leave a message on our answer phone, contact the staff member through Bloomz or send an email at pjenquiries@pjademy.net . We will get back to you as soon as we can. As you can appreciate, with 407 children in school, we are often in discussion with a range of parents at once, so we cannot always respond immediately.

After school clubs

After School Club letters will begin to be sent out with your children over the next few days. Some are quicker to establish than others so we provide clear starting and finishing dates on our website in the after school clubs section so that you know which week the club will start and finish in. We will send a text response to let you know if your child has been successfully



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accepted onto the club they have chosen. As you will appreciate, some clubs are extremely popular. There are waiting lists for these clubs and children that apply again and are already on the waiting list will be given priority.

Bloomz

Most parents have now signed up to 'Bloomz', our online sharing platform that allows you to see the work and activities your child has taken part in during the day at school. Bloomz is now often also used as a reminder and communication tool for the class teacher and parents of the class and can be very useful to help with organisation. Attached, is a sign up letter.

Key Events for the first term

Other items may still be added, such as trips, or events planned or suggested by the children, but we will endeavour to ensure that you have as much notice as possible.

- **Week commencing September 10th:** School Council representatives will be elected – your child will need to prepare a speech for their class mates if they would like to be elected
- **Monday, September 10th:** Year 6 trip to Eden Camp
- **Thursday, September 13th:** Y3 Parent Open Evening to learn more about school systems and procedures and ask any questions you may have – 3:30pm until 4:30pm
- **Monday, September 24th:** Individual photos for all children (children with siblings at other schools can have their photo taken with your CPJA pupil in the school hall from 8am if you would like this opportunity)
- **Wednesday October 3rd:** Harvest Festival – led by Year 4 and for Y4 parents – including 3/4 B
- **Week beginning October 22nd:** Initial parents consultations (an explanatory letter will be sent out nearer the time)

Mon aft and eve: Y6

Weds aft and eve: Y3

Tues aft and eve: Y5

Thurs aft and eve: Y4

- **Tuesday, December 11th:** Y3 Nativity evening performance
- **Wednesday, December 12th:** Y3 Nativity afternoon performance
- **Wednesday December 19th:** School Christmas Fair
- **Thursday December 20th:** Christmas Service at church in the morning

We would like to re-establish opportunities for parents to come into school to work with their children on a Friday morning but this will not start until after October half term, so that children have an opportunity to get used to their new classes.



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We look forward to seeing you all soon,

Miss Law and the staff team



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