

Getting the most from Castleford Park Junior Academy Planners

The children's school planners are an extremely useful tool to support their learning in a variety of ways and it is important that they are used at home and in school. Therefore, this guide is to assist parents in understanding how to best use it.



'Our School Rules'

First and foremost you will find 'Our School Rules' near the front of the planner. We would encourage you to support your child and the school in promoting these rules, which can continue at home, as well as naturally praising your child for their achievements - examples of which are listed in the planner.

Communication

We understand that it may not always be convenient to come into school and speak to your child's teacher directly so the planner provides an extra way to communicate in the bottom section 'Home/School Communications', where the planner should be signed by yourself every week. This enables messages to be communicated whether it is a positive message about your child's learning, a small query or arranging a meeting to raise a concern.

Maths

Towards the back of the planner, there are some key mathematical facts such as 2D/3D shapes, measures, angles, times tables and number bonds - which may be helpful when supporting your child to complete homework, or if they are trying to become more resourceful as they develop their ability to become an independent learner.

English

After the Maths section, towards the back of the planner, you will find a range of English resources that will be very useful to the children. There are high frequency words which are words that the children will commonly use in their day to day writing, so they must be confident in spelling all of these. This then leads onto the expectation of words the children in each year group should be aiming to spell and they can refer to these spellings in class as they are learning or can be practising these at home.

For those children, typically in lower Key Stage 2 who are still learning their spellings rules in phonics sessions, you will find a series of blue pages in the planner with some of the different sounds and spelling rules they will need to confidently know and use.

Children of all year groups must learn the terminology used within Literacy and these can be found underneath the heading 'Spelling & Grammar'. These can be useful for you to read so that when the children are doing any writing at home, they can be encouraged to include and identify what they have used.

You will also find a 'Progression Ladder of Sentence Types' which will enable you to understand a progression of how the children's writing should develop and it gives an explanation of the sentence type as well as an example sentence. Practising these at home would be very beneficial to the children.

At CPJA we expect the best presentation from all of the children, including neat, cursive handwriting. You can find an example of both upper and lower case letters in the planner if your child needs to practise them at home. If you would like a larger copy, get in touch with your child's class teacher.

Other areas of learning

You will find information on the Solar System, Maps of the World, Europe and UK and useful French phrases the children should know.

In class, the children will participate in discussion about having a positive growth mindset. For example: instead of saying 'I can't do it' they will think 'I will keep persevering' ... or instead of 'I have made a mistake' they will think 'I can learn from making mistakes and improve'. Similarly this links to 'The Learning Pit' which can be found in the planner and the children will know about this concept. This is incredibly important that the children become resilient learners and understand what qualities make the best learners. We ask that the children always reflect on their learning every day and this is one of the ways that it is done. Another way is by asking questions seen under the heading 'Reflecting on your Learning'. The children may wish to use these as prompts at home when doing homework and they will be used regularly within school.

Traffic Light System

At the very back of the planner there are 3 different coloured pages: Red – I do not understand, Orange – I am partially confident that I understand and Green – I am confident that I understand. Each day the children will be using their planners to show how they feel about their learning, allowing teachers to give support and challenge more effectively within the lessons. Therefore, it is really important that the children's planners are in school every day.

Thank you for your support.