

## The transition from Nursery into Kindergarten

The early years of School are unique in so many ways. It is vitally important that during this time a child fosters a love of learning, an inquisitive mind and a sense of self-worth. This is why the transition from a Nursery environment to a School environment is such an important time and here at Castle House we begin this process by gradually involving the Nursery children in our



daily routines, for example, eating lunch in the School Hall with the older children and having dance lessons with the Dance teacher. During a child's last half term in Nursery, the Kindergarten teacher will hold Educational hours to help introduce them to Kindergarten and the activities they will experience. A Transition morning where pupils spend a morning with their new Teacher also helps to make the transition a smooth one.

Educational programmes in Kindergarten will follow on from Nursery and all children learn through play with a mixture of child initiated and teacher led learning opportunities. Learning takes place both indoors and outdoors and different topics are introduced which the children explore through a variety of mediums, including books, art, drama, music, ICT, crafts and model making. We introduce Phonics and the basics of Literacy are taught daily through a structured reading scheme. Numeracy is introduced through different activities, such as counting games, weighing activities and measuring, and is also taught daily. Children are introduced to the principles of writing and the use of computers and all children are encouraged to participate in PE, Gymnastics, Swimming, Dance and Music for an all-round educational experience. By the end of Kindergarten, the children are enthusiastic and confident learners, who are ready for the more structured, less discovery-focussed, environment of Year 1.

### DAILY ROUTINE

Morning registration takes place at 8.25 am. Pupils line up on the top playground from 8.20 am and are collected by their Form Teacher. Any child arriving before 8.20am should go to the School Hall for Morning Care with their belongings and will be brought out to the playground by the person on duty. The school day ends at 3.50 pm and pupils should be collected from the top playground unless they are attending clubs or Prep and Play,



further details of these are sent out each term. Please inform the teacher if a student is to be collected by someone other than the parent.

## COMMUNICATION

A child's education is a three-way partnership between the teacher, parents and student, and we actively encourage parents to work with us in ensuring the best possible start for their child. Please keep us informed of any circumstances that might affect your child's performance, progress or well-being. Do feel free to contact your child's teacher informally at the start or end of the day or by appointment to discuss anything that gives cause for concern. We for our part will provide you with regular information about your child's attainment and progress, and will make you aware of any concerns we may have. We will send out regular Reports and hold Parents' evenings to enable Teachers and Parents to keep in touch more formally. Most of our communication is done by email, so please ensure we have your up to date details on file.

Any other information you require and details of other School policies, etc. can be found on our new website at [www.castlehouseschool.co.uk](http://www.castlehouseschool.co.uk)



## UNIFORM

Items of uniform can be ordered or obtained from the School Shop, please ask at the Office for opening times. Children will require full school uniform, PE kit, swimming kit, play shoes or trainers and Forest School clothes on selected days. We are aware, however that accidents do happen and because of this we ask that you provide your child with a spare set of clothing, including underwear in a named carrier bag. These can be left on their peg, with their name on.

## BEHAVIOUR

Even the youngest children are encouraged to behave towards each other with kindness and consideration. They have to learn to look after their own possessions and to respect other's possessions. We expect them to be honest, helpful and polite, and to work hard and to listen to others. They should respect everyone and learn to value differences and diversity.

We explain to children why some forms of behaviour are unacceptable and hurtful to others. We rarely need to impose sanctions; but sometimes we may remove a reward for hurtful behaviour.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

A hot lunch is provided by School and the children are encouraged to use a knife and fork, use good table manners and to try new foods. It would be helpful if you could support us with this at home. Pupils have a morning and afternoon snack which should be brought in from home. We encourage children to eat healthy snacks where possible. Students will also need to bring a named water bottle into School as we encourage them to drink regularly.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**



Extra-curricular activities all help to develop a 'whole child' by encouraging pupils to engage in problem solving, teamwork and sharing ideas as well as learning new skills from an early age. Enrichment clubs are held daily after lunch for 30 minutes for all pupils. Activities include Origami, Dodgeball, Arts and Crafts, Lego, Tennis, Computers, Chess, Singing and Acting, and many more. All pupils have a Forest School session each week where they get to explore the

outdoors and go Swimming every Friday morning. Here they are grouped to ensure every child gets the support they need. In addition, pupils have PE sessions, Gymnastics and Dance lessons, Music and singing lessons and learn the recorder, all with specialist teachers. This all helps to develop a happy, balanced child willing to explore new activities in school and outside.

We look forward to welcoming you and your children to Castle House School.

Ian Sterling

**Headteacher**