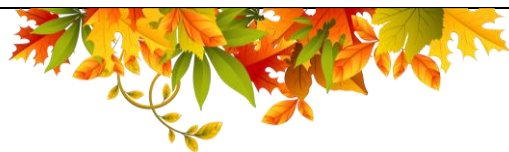




Dunster Welcome Letter September 2025



Dear Parents & Carers,

Hello, welcome back to Castle Primary School, and to the new Dunster Class: our Year Four and Five class for this year! We hope you and your children all had a happy, restful summer and they are ready and raring to go for the year ahead. The Dunster Team – who have the pleasure of teaching your children this year – are **Mr Penn** from Monday to Wednesday, **Miss Norris** on Thursdays and Fridays and **Ms Counter** who will be supporting the class throughout the week. **Mrs Parkin** will continue to teach the Year 4 children for Maths.

A Day in Dunster

Our start time is 8:45, where we will line up over by the pool on the playground. Pick-up is from the side of the fire-exit steps by Dunster at 15:15. A typical day in Dunster will look like this:

8:45 – 9:00	9:00 – 9:30	9:30 – 10:30	10:30 – 10:45	10:45 – 11:00
Start of day activity (SODA), register	Guided reading or Spelling	English	Break time	Assembly
11:00 – 11:50	11:50 – 12:50	12:50 – 13:15	13:15 – 15:15	
Maths	Lunch	Register, Maths on Track (MOT), Story	Foundation subjects: Spanish, PE, Discovery, RE, Computing, Citizenship, Music, Art, Science, DT	

Our Learning

Our Discovery focus for this half term is on **Global Geography**. We will be learning about continents, countries and capitals, as well as lines of latitude and longitude and time zones. We will have a case study focus on the **Amazing Americas**, where we will be finding out all about the human and physical features of North and South America. Please refer to the knowledge organiser for more details on our key questions.

Forest School

This year, Forest School will take place every other Tuesday, with our first session on **Tuesday 9th September**. Further dates will be communicated separately. The children will need to come to school dressed in their Forest School gear on their Forest School day. Please remember, sessions take place in all seasons, and may well involve off-site visits, so please ensure weather-appropriate, 'muck-ready' clothing is always provided, with waterproofs and spare clothes just in case. They will also need indoor shoes for the morning, in addition to any outdoor footwear for the afternoon.

Keeping Healthy

Please ensure your child has a **water bottle** (no glass, please) in school every day, as well-hydrated brains learn so much better! A **healthy snack** is also a good idea for break time.

We will be having **PE** on **Fridays**, so children will need to wear their PE kits to school on this day. Sessions will be both indoors and outdoors when the weather allows, so please ensure appropriate kit is worn. We would strongly encourage joggers or leggings in the cooler months as they will be in their kits all day.

We understand that as some of the older children mature, they may begin to require deodorant after PE sessions. However, to ensure the safety of all, this must be in roll-on form **ONLY** please (i.e. not sprays) and should be used responsibly.

Keeping Updated

You can keep up to date with what we are learning in class through **Seesaw**. As you know, this works like an online portfolio of written work, images and so on, which the children will be building up as time goes on. It

is a great way for us to assess learning and keep a record of what they've been doing (particularly when they are not working in their books). Please do get in touch if for any reason you cannot get connected to your child's Seesaw portfolio.

Home Learning

We believe that children learn best when they can reinforce the skills they learn at school in a range of contexts, independently and over a period of time. Homework activities are given to support and extend your child's understanding, and to encourage them to involve their families in their learning. As a brief run down, **each week** your child will be expected to work on the following:

Task	Details	Due
Reading	At least four times per week. All home reads should be recorded in your child's Reading Record (they may do this themselves, but please check in with them about what they are reading too!)	Checked on Mondays
Times tables	Ongoing practice on Times Tables Rockstars. Please keep this up, as secure multiplication knowledge really helps with the Maths content in Year 4 and 5.	N/A

Reading is obviously a fundamental skill, and we will be rewarding children for the hard work they put into it. They will receive a Dragon Point for every day of reading recorded (over the minimum of 4). It would be helpful if they could bring their Reading Records in every day.

As part of our 'Amazing Americas' Discovery unit, we are also inviting children to complete some additional home learning where they can choose a festival from the Americas to find out more about. They could create a mask or decoration linked to the festival – but we encourage them to be as creative as they like. More information is given on the separate curriculum plan.

Responsibilities

In the upper school, we try hard to foster a sense of personal responsibility and independence in each child, as they are important life skills that they will need as they get older. There will be many opportunities this year for your child to take on some of the responsibilities that come with being in the upper school, but with this privilege comes high expectations, and we expect the very best from them in this regard!

Of course, we understand that some children may relish these responsibilities more than others, but we do hope that over the course of the year, they will all begin to take more responsibility for themselves – even in terms of something as small as remembering their own Reading Record or taking the initiative to ask for help!

Walking Home

By upper Key Stage 2, some children who live in the village start to walk home from school each day. If you would like your child to walk home from school, please remember to contact the office to update their permissions on the system. For safeguarding reasons, we cannot allow a child to walk home without this parental permission recorded. Also, any mobile phones must be handed in to the class teacher each morning to be locked away for the day. Thank you for your support in this.

Finally...

If you have any general problems or queries, then please do not hesitate to contact us. You can do this via Seesaw, or contact the school office. If a longer discussion is required, we can arrange a meeting for a mutually suitable time. We are looking forward to an exciting year!

Best wishes,

Team Dunster ☺