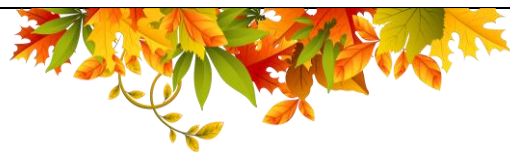




Totnes Welcome Letter September 2025



Dear Parents & Carers,

Hello, welcome back to Castle Primary School, and to the new Totnes Class - our Year 3 & 4 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 Totnes Team – who have the pleasure of teaching your children this year – are Mrs Parkin, Mrs Salter and Mrs Newman. Mr Morton and Mrs Liddell will continue to teach the Year 3 children for Maths.

A Day in Totnes

Our start time is 8:45, where we will line up over by the pool on the playground. Pick-up is from the steps to the side of the Trim Trail at 15:15. A typical day in Totnes 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/Spelling	English	Break time	Assembly

11:00 – 11:50	11:50 – 12:50	12:50 – 13:10	13:10 – 13:40	13:40 -15.15
Maths	Lunch	Register Story	MOT/Times Tables	Foundation subjects: Spanish, PE, Discovery, RE, Computing, Citizenship, Music, Art, Science, DT

Our Learning

Our Discovery focus for this half term is called **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 term, Forest School will take place every other week on a Thursday. Our first session will be on **Thursday 18th September**. Please see additional dates in the separate Forest School letter. The children will need to come to school dressed in their Forest School clothes on their Forest School days. 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 **Wednesdays** so children will need to wear their PE kits to school on this day. Sessions will be 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.

Keeping Updated

You can keep up to date with what we are learning in class through **Seesaw**. 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 their understanding, and to encourage the children to involve their families in their learning experiences. As a brief run down, **each week** your child will be expected to work on the following activities:

Task	Details	Due
Reading	At least <u>four</u> times per week. All home reads should be recorded in your child's Reading Record. Children will come home with a reading book during the first few days, but they are welcome to read books from home too.	Checked on Fridays
Times tables	Ongoing practice on Times Tables Rockstars. Please keep this up, as secure multiplication knowledge really helps with the Maths content in Year 3 and 4. Children in Y3 will soon receive their log in details for this.	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). Children should bring their Reading Records in every day, **especially on a Friday** when they will be checked and Dragon Points awarded.

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.

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, and if a discussion is required, we can arrange a meeting for a mutually suitable time. We are looking forward to an exciting year!

Best wishes,

Team Totnes ☺