



# Castle Hill Primary School



Quality  
of  
teaching



Behaviour and  
safety

Achievement of  
pupils

Ofsted  
December  
2014  
Outstanding

Overall  
Effectiveness

Leadership  
and Management



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## The Vision 'Do With Not For'

At Castle Hill our aim is that every child becomes self aware by developing their abilities, skills and talents to enable them to participate confidently in the world.

We provide a welcoming, happy, supportive and dynamic environment in which we are fully committed to delivering education of the highest quality.

- \* Welcoming
  - \* Happy
  - \* Supportive
  - \* Self-aware
  - \* Dynamic
- Wow !**



## Welcome

From the moment you walk into our school you will be aware of an atmosphere that is happy, productive and calm. Our school is successful because it is a place of hope, optimism and fun. We consider this as essential in order to provide a learning opportunity of the highest quality for our children.

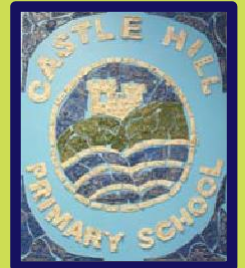
Everyone benefits from an extended curriculum and beautiful surroundings. Our pastoral care is exceptional, thus ensuring every child's self belief and confidence is increased. We encourage self discipline through mutual respect and nurture a positive community spirit.

We believe that success in your child's education is enhanced and enriched through partnership with parents. Therefore, you are welcome and encouraged to become involved in all aspects of school life. I'm sure you will find the staff friendly, enthusiastic and responsive to your child's needs.

Speaking personally, what makes Castle Hill special is that it is a place of positive relationships and shared purpose. I love leading a school that truly values every individual. It is a place where academic achievement, personal growth and hearty laughter all come together.

**Su Broadhurst**

Head Teacher



Ceramic Art made by all pupils and is on display in our entrance hall.

*The staff are caring, motivated and enthusiastic and all pupils have the opportunity to widen their experiences.*  
**OFSTED DEC 2014**

*The playtimes are fair and everyone sticks to the rules.* Molly

*Everyone in our school participates in everything rain or shine.*  
Kayleigh & Holly

*The library is so amazing with a wide range of books.* Daniel

This is an **OUTSTANDING** School. The overall quality of teaching is outstanding. Pupils enjoy being really challenged by their work. **OFSTED DECEMBER 2014**

# Hope, Optimism and Fun

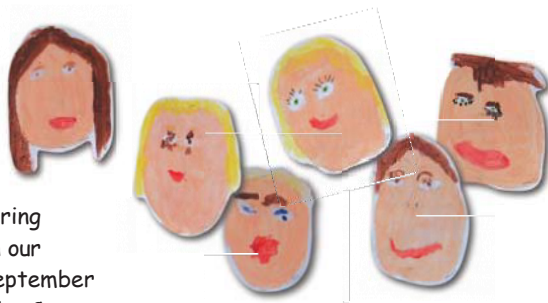


## Admissions

Children who have their fifth birthday during the school year, will be offered a place in our Reception Class. They will start in the September after their fourth birthday, in line with the County Admissions Policy. If we become full, the County use the following criteria:

- Children in Looked After Care.
- Children who have an Educational Health Care Plan
- Children who have siblings in the school.
- Any special medical factors making the choice of this school essential.
- Priority given to those who are geographically closest to the school.

When children are admitted to the school, parents are required to fill in an admission form, medical form, permissions form and a Home/School Agreement.



An induction programme takes place during the summer term prior to the child starting school, including visits to the school and liaison between our teachers.

For the first four weeks of the school year, Reception children are introduced on a part time basis.



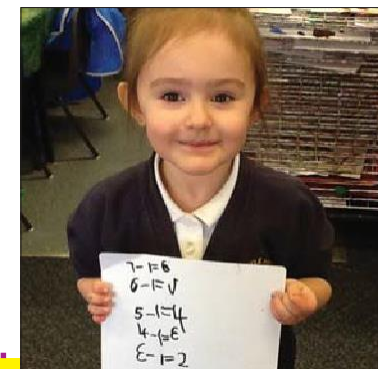
It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do themselves, that will make them successful human beings.

Ann Landers



The school takes the safety of our children very seriously. Castle Hill has in place stringent policies to ensure the safeguarding of all our children.

- All our staff, Governors and volunteers are DBS checked.
- Robust staff recruitment and selection processes are in place.
- The Head and a named governor act as Safeguarding trained in this area Leads.
- All our staff are regularly



Pupils are welcoming and they show excellent conduct and manners at all times of the school day. They are happy to talk to visitors and have a lot of respect for each other and adults. OFSTED DEC 2014



Teaching in the reception class is outstanding. OFSTED DEC 2014



## Teaching and Assessment

The curriculum is divided into three key stages:

- **Foundation Stage (ages 3-5),**
- **Key Stage 1 (ages 5-7) and**
- **Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11).**

In the Foundation Stage learning is carefully planned and structured, with an emphasis on activities that are fun, relevant and motivating for each child.

The teaching team deliver the curriculum through planned play as well as extending and developing children's spontaneous play to enhance their learning further.

The children also play an active role in determining what they should be achieving. The children's development and attainment is continually monitored so that each child's progress can be evaluated to guide planning for the future.

At the end of KS1, the children are assessed in English, Mathematics and Science and they are assessed by SATs at the end of KS2.

Our pupils are closely supported and monitored to make sure they are reaching their full potential at all times, but in a way that we make non-stressful and positive.

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding

*Attitudes to learning are exemplary.*

*The teaching of mathematics is very effective.*

*Pupils are very positive about their teachers and how they help them develop their learning.*

*Teaching assistants are well qualified and very aware of individual pupil's needs. They support pupils extremely well*

*Teachers have high expectations of what pupils can achieve and use creative ways to engage pupils in their work.*

*Pupils conscientiously pursue a thirst for learning and truly enjoy their work.*

*Pupils' books show they are very proud of their work and present it neatly.*

*Pupils' achievement is outstanding. Standards at the end of Yr 2 and Yr 6 are above national averages in reading, writing and mathematics.*

*The range of subjects taught in the school is outstanding.*  
**OFSTED DEC 2014**

## The School Curriculum

The three core subjects taught in the curriculum are English, Mathematics and Science. Other subjects taught are Geography, History, Religious Education, Computing, French (Statutory at KS2), Art and Design, P.E, Music, Design and Technology, PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education). RSE is taught age appropriately throughout the school. Each child is taught according to his or her appropriate level, age and ability. Teachers plan co-operatively, to ensure continuity and progress.



- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**



Each class has a full range of resources and equipment and the school is fortunate to have a large number of teaching assistants (T.A's) and higher level teaching assistants (HLTA's), supporting the teachers. Assessment is continuous throughout the children's time at the school.

We want children to love learning, and we recognise that the things you remember most are those that brought you enjoyment. Of course, traditional learning is at the core of each class, and our children have to learn to sit still, listen, co-operate and behave well: we take discipline very seriously, but we also make learning great fun.

- **Computing**
- **R.E**
- **History**
- **Geography**
- **P.E**
- **D.T**
- **Art**
- **French**
- **PSHCE**
- **Music**

### National Curriculum Assessment Results 2023

KS1 (% at each level)	EXS	GDS
Castle Hill Reading National Level	78	39
Castle Hill Writing National Level	71	19
Castle Hill Mathematics National Level	90	42

KS2 (% at each level)	EXS	GDS
Castle Hill Reading National Level	93 73	43
Castle Hill Writing National Level	93 71	33
Castle Hill Mathematics National Level	90 73	37
Castle Hill (GPS) National Level	90 72	37
Castle Hill R/W/M	90 72	37





## Special Education Needs and Disabilities

At Castle Hill we use the Graduated Pathway to identify when children are experiencing barriers to their learning and tailor specific support to enable pupils to overcome these barriers. The practice of personalising learning applies to all pupils across the learning spectrum and for academically more able pupils this means the provision of additional challenges as well as opportunities to attend events to develop their particular talents.

When children are identified as needing additional support, the school adheres to the SEND Code of Practice.

Using a system of My Plan, My Plan Plus or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), we ensure that each child's needs are individually and appropriately catered for and that any relevant outside agencies are involved in providing guidance and support. Parents, carers and pupils are fully part of this process. In all cases our aim is to provide the very best education for all pupils, enabling all children to fully achieve their potential.



Our policy for Special Educational Needs and our School Offer can be accessed via the school's website.



*Their needs are quickly identified with targeted support given to ensure that they make the same rapid progress as the classmates. OFSTED 2014*



## Medical Facilities

All staff are trained in First Aid. If a child suffers an injury at school, the staff will use their expertise to decide how best to treat the child. All accidents are recorded in the accident Report Log. The school maintains a record of contact details for each child, which are regularly updated. Whenever necessary, parents will be contacted immediately.



Medicines are not to be brought to school as staff will not administer them unless children have an agreed IHCP (Individual Health Care Plan) with the school.

Children should not return to school after a bout of sickness or diarrhoea for 48 hours after the last episode.



## Busy Bees Playgroup

We are a happy and well established community playgroup operating within Castle Hill Primary School.

As a community playgroup, it is run by the parents who use it. Their aim is to foster the all round development of each individual child and to provide them with a sound foundation to starting school.

Liaison between school and playgroup is extremely good. There are many opportunities throughout the year for pre-school children to join in activities, which help prepare them for the transition to school.

*Pupils are caring and thoughtful to each other and adults. They consider how one another feel both in and out of lessons and as a result pupils feel very safe in the school. OFSTED DEC 2014*

Membrance Day 20

INT ATAH



BURIED TREASURE

*Disabled pupils are those with special educational needs and are supported extremely well. OFSTED DEC 2014*

My Jurassic Forest Topic Book







## Our Creative Curriculum

At Castle Hill Primary School we empower children through a broad and balanced curriculum. We do this by making learning specific, passionate, contextual and authentic. This way children learn knowledge and skills from all subjects and apply them through cumulative and cohesive topics. Topics include Tomb Raiders, Rocking Through the Ages and Megastructures.

We promote a philosophy of 'do with not for' where children feel a real sense of ownership of their own learning.

'Enterprise' and 'Community Awareness' are interwoven through our curriculum. Children work effectively in teams and are encouraged to become useful and considerate members of the community.



Fairy Tales Day

*Pupils thoroughly enjoy the subjects they study and can see how there are links to develop their numeracy and literacy skills. OFSTED DEC 2014*



*The variety of subjects taught in the school is described by the pupils as exciting, capturing their interest and their love of learning in all areas. OFSTED DEC 2014*



The School's Charging Policy. We cannot make an actual charge for an activity, but instead a 'voluntary contribution' may be invited in support of the activity. The sad fact is that without sufficient contributions from parents, activities will not be able to take place.

Adult help is often required for visits and parents are invited to volunteer their services! It is essential to have written confirmation for any visit. Without it your child will be unable to attend. At present the school organises a residential trip for Year 6 to the Forest of Dean.

## Visits

Educational visits to places of interest or in connection with a particular class's work are a part of school life.

Learning is encouraged through many external visitors who open the doors to cultural capital that is essential for the children to live in a democratic society.



*Pupils thoroughly enjoy their work and speak with passion about the learning and the opportunities they have. OFSTED DEC 2014*



# Excitement and Creativity



# Attitudes to Learning

Respect for the  
rule of law

Freedom

Belief in personal and  
social responsibility

- Set a high expectation of children's behaviour that promotes the importance of honesty and good manners.
- Create opportunities for children to gain in confidence and grow in self-esteem so that by the time they leave us they are well-adjusted individuals ready for the demands of secondary education.
- Emphasise the need for self-respect, respect for the rights of others and care for their environment.

To ensure children develop as valued and responsible members of the school community, our objectives are to prepare children for life with British Values.

Respect for British  
institutions

Tolerance

- Help and encourage children to become self-motivated, independent and co-operative learners.
- Provide opportunities for children to celebrate their own successes and appreciate the achievements of others.
- Ensure that discipline is sensitive, fair and consistent thereby helping children towards self-discipline and taking responsibility for their actions.



- Maintain the ethos of a caring school community so that it will continue to influence the actions of all its members.

*Pupils behave very well at all times. They have excellent attitudes to learning.*  
**OFSTED DECEMBER 2014**

*Experiences prepare pupils very well for life in Modern Britain.*  
**OFSTED DECEMBER 2014**

*They have a good understanding of the different religions they have learned about through visits to local churches and mosques as well as what they learn in class.*  
**OFSTED DECEMBER 2014**

*Pupils spoke about their regular fundraising for a child they sponsor in Mozambique.*  
**OFSTED DECEMBER 2014**



## School Times

**School starts 8.45am.**

**Morning Break:**  
10.30-10.45am.

**Lunch Break:**  
12-1pm

**School ends at 3.10pm for KS1 and 3.15pm for KS2.**

## Arriving at school

Please ensure that your children arrive punctually.

## Leaving school

At the end of the school day children should be collected from the playground. We expect all Foundation Stage and KS1 children to be met after school.

Every child is handed over to a known adult. Lower KS2 teachers will also escort the children into the playground.

Upper KS2 will be released from the classroom. If somebody unknown to the teacher is picking up your child please inform the school in advance.

*The school's work to keep pupils safe and secure is outstanding.  
OFSTED DEC 2014*

## School Uniform

The school is proud of its image and seeks to promote a high standard of dress to help instil in the children a sense of pride in the school. We want children to conform to this to prevent them feeling left out. Our school uniform comprises of black or grey skirt/trousers, a white polo shirt and a navy blue sweatshirt with the school logo.

In summer the pupils can choose to wear blue checked dresses or wear grey shorts. For P.E, the children wear a T-shirt in their House Colour with black shorts. Uniform is available to buy from The Uniform Shop in Gloucester.

Every child is expected to wear dark coloured shoes. Trainers are not accepted as suitable for daily footwear. Extreme haircuts are inappropriate in colour and style.

## Homework Policy

We have a very clear Homework Policy, which was produced following an in-depth consultation and working party process with parents. It is expected that anyone joining Castle Hill will embrace this opportunity to work in partnership. Homework enables parents to play an active part in supporting your child's education and also prepares the older children for the demands of secondary school.

### Reception: WOW activities

**Year 1-6: PAWS** (purposeful activities without school). Our aim is to value the learning opportunities that are created outside school time.

We provide a booklet of activities each term that demand different skills.

Imagination	Persuasion
Efficiency	Accuracy
Support	Responsibility
Organisation	Determination



*Breakfast Club Menu: Bagels, crumpets, toast, pancakes and juice.*

## Absence

If your child is absent from school then please let the office know as soon as possible in the morning or in advance if the absence is due to a medical appointment or exam etc. You can do this by telephone: 01452 863380. It is important that we are notified on each day of the absence. If the school has not had notification or reason for absence then the office staff will try and contact you as soon as possible in the morning once the registers have been checked. This is to ensure that the parents and the school know that the child is safe.



## Mobile phones

In exceptional circumstances if a mobile is essential, then the named telephone must be left in the school office at the beginning of the day. The telephone is the pupil's responsibility and they must remember to collect it at the end of the day. No other pupil may collect it for them.

## Holidays during term time

Government regulations do not allow the school to authorise family holidays during term time. Parents are asked to recognise that children who are taken out of school during term time will miss certain modules or units of work which may not be repeated.

*The breakfast club provides pupils with a range of healthy foods and activities to start the day OFSTED Dec 2014*

## Breakfast Club

There is a warm welcome at Breakfast Club for any child wanting to attend.

You can pre-book your child into as many sessions as is required (subject to availability), Monday to Friday 8am-8.45am at a cost of £4.00 per day

Healthy School meals are cooked on site and are provided daily. These are free for all children in KS1. Payment for KS2 children should be made in advance online. This is payable in advance. Children may also bring their own packed lunch to school.





## Clubs

At Castle Hill there is a fantastic range of after school clubs at various times of the year. Our clubs are run by teachers as well as other outside agencies.

The children in Year 5 and 6 receive swimming lessons, and Bikeability sessions are held in and around the school grounds for Year 6.

First Aid  
Gymnastics  
Dance Club  
Book Club  
Football  
Kickboxing  
Carpentry Club  
Taq Rugby



## The Keep

The Keep was the part of the Castle that was used to store valuable possessions. We know that your child is your most valuable possession and you want them to be happy and safe.

We offer affordable and flexible, after school childcare that gives your child the opportunity to play with their friends in a familiar setting in the care of qualified staff that they will already know and trust.

Your child will have the opportunity to relax and unwind after a busy day at school in an environment that is separate from the classroom. Fun is very important to us at The Keep and your child will be able to choose from many activities including games, craft and outdoor play. Please ask for more information.

## Music

Instrumental instruction by peripatetic teachers is available for a variety of instruments.

We embrace whole class music sessions delivered by a county specialist eg: brass, Samba drumming etc.



## Parents and the Wider Community

There are good links with parents who are encouraged to play an active part in their children's education. Parents were fully consulted in the development of the Home School Agreement and the Homework Policy. We welcome and value the voluntary help provided by parents in the classroom.

We have a well-established Parent and Teacher Association (The Friends). Enthusiastic committee members organise a range of fundraising and social events that are well supported by the community.

We realise the importance of good links with the local community and lend our support to activities in the school locality.

Parents are well informed through the weekly newsletter (via email or available in the office on Fridays).



## The Friends

In bringing together parents and teachers, the Friends strengthen the day to day relationship that is so important for the success of our school.

The money raised by The Friends has paid for a cycle pod and play equipment for lunchtimes. Contributions are made towards school trips, Reception Welcome Pack and the Year 6 leavers party.

Currently the funds are being raised to contribute to the school library.

**School Governors:** Chair: Deena Read and Vice Chair: Karen Lee

OUTSTANDING