January 2022

Castle Hill school is at the beginning of a very exciting journey. We have been identified by the DFE to be part of their rebuilding/refurbishing programme, which means that our school community will be in a building that will be physically fit for purpose.

We already offer our children a purposeful, well-resourced learning environment. Children are encouraged to be ambitious, self-motivated and well-prepared for the next stage in their education. Now we will be able to offer our children a brand new learning environment which will can only enhance the learning.

All staff at Castle Hill are committed to ensuring that every child reaches their potential; from wrap around care to general kitchen assistants, mid-day supervisors to cleaners. All staff are dedicated to supporting every individual through a positive ethos that promotes excellent relationships and behaviour. Our values are embedded in everything we do.

I am absolutely delighted to be leading our school into a new era, which will enable current and future pupils to not only benefit from committed staff but also from a well-designed space where they can continue to flourish in years to come.

Curriculum

As a school we endeavour to meet the needs of our children by offering a curriculum that will enable them to not only excel at learning, but to prepare them for real life. Ours is not an 'off the peg' curriculum, staff have designed the learning opportunities meticulously to provide a progressive, personalised curriculum that is relevant to our school community and broadens horizons in the context of the global community. We work as a team to ensure that all objectives, skills and understanding are mapped out over all years in our curriculum map.

At Castle Hill, we embrace our surroundings and utilise our local landscape, rain or shine, providing walks in our local area, along the canal, visiting the local market or on a KS2 Hike to the Pike. Our youngest children have been foraging in the local area and cooked up what they have found on our fire pit. All of these activities are planned into our long term grid and are mapped out across the year.

The performing arts are valued and celebrated at Castle Hill, where there is an Artist in Residence working with us on community projects, whole class ukulele teaching and drama through events such as Shakespeare in schools. We also utilise links with other local artists and creative groups who come and visit the school to enhance our curriculum.

At the heart of all that we do is our community. We have forged strong links with Todmorden in Bloom, Incredible Edible Todmorden, St Mary's church and Todmorden High our local secondary school. We are proud of our achievements at Castle Hill and showcase our talents through performances at the Edwardian Hippodrome in the centre of Todmorden, exhibiting our art work at Platform One gallery at the station and at the local agricultural show. We have rewritten, redesigned and refined our curriculum so that learning is as far as possible based on quality experiences.

What does learning look like across the subjects?

- Our English curriculum places quality texts from a wide and diverse range of authors at the very heart of learning.

- Early reading is prioritised and we promote a love of reading and sharing stories, poems and rhymes to develop vocabulary and comprehension.
- In maths, the children learn how to move from the concrete concepts through to the abstract, using manipulatives to support their learning; they will follow a clear progression in calculation methods which builds on their prior learning.
- Applying their mathematical understanding in order to solve problems is at the centre of learning in maths.
- Through observation, investigation and questioning, our science curriculum offers practical opportunities for children to explore the world around them, testing existing theories and their own ideas.
- Design and technology is brought to life through projects which challenge the children to use their imagination to design, invent, build and evaluate exciting products. These are often linked to topic areas.
- In Religious Education, the children will learn about the Christian faith and also about other faiths within the community and around the world. We teach the children to show mutual respect for people of all faiths and cultures.
- In computing, we teach our children how new technologies can be exciting and creative, whilst introducing them to a range of programs which need a variety of skills to access. The use of technology is embedded across our whole curriculum.

- Our humanities curriculum teaches children how to use a range of historical sources to learn about events from the past. Children will learn key facts about the geography of the world in which they live and will learn important map-reading and research skills; they will build a firm foundation of knowledge studying time periods as set out in the National Curriculum programme of study. We place a great emphasis in the Autumn term on our local area and historical and geographical features of Todmorden.
- We provide a thorough P.E. curriculum delivered by teachers in partnership with qualified sports coaches. We are committed to providing opportunities for the children to play their favourite sports and also to try new ones, always with an emphasis on fun and participation.
- Our commitment to providing outdoor learning experiences across the curriculum broadens the children's learning. Children are able to access our Forest school, led by a trained teacher in school.
- Trips and experiences enrich the children's learning, providing important cultural capital which will serve to help them develop into successful, happy young people

Ofsted March 2019 stated: *Pupils have lots of opportunities to take on additional responsibilities. These include acting as librarians, house captains, anti-bullying ambassadors, playground pals, buddy readers and being members of the communication team. Pupils spoke with enthusiasm about a range of different subjects that they enjoy in the school. They were particularly keen to tell me about the visits and visitors that are used to enhance their learning. Year 6 pupils were able to tell me about the different activities they did on their recent residential trip and others were keen to show the work they had completed with an artist.*

The curriculum is broad and balanced. Pupils have opportunities to study a wide range of subjects and topics and speak with enthusiasm about their different learning experiences. They can make links between different areas of learning. Work displayed around the school and in books shows that pupils have opportunities to develop subject-specific skills.

· *Pupils' attendance at the school is consistently above the national average. The proportion of pupils disadvantaged by poor attendance is also below the national average.*

· *The reading books made available to the pupils are well matched to their phonics ability, and pupils of all abilities and ages in the school show a love of reading.*

· *The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection. You are totally committed to providing the pupils in your care with high-quality education. You and your team know your pupils well. Work to support pupils' social and emotional needs is a strength of the school.*

Residential Trips

We provide residentials for our older children where children are really challenged to solve problems in teams and develop their key resilience and teamwork skills.

We review our provision on an annual basis, taking into account many factors, not least affordability for our families. Some of the venues we have visited in recent years include: Winmarleigh Hall (PGL), Edale (YHA), Hawkshead (YHA) and The Anderton Centre. For our younger children, we provide tasters of the outdoors through visits to venues such as Jerusalem Farm and Crocky Trail near Chester.

Trips & Theme days

Our curriculum mapping incorporates opportunities in every topic for outdoor learning, themed experience days and school trips. Through this approach, we are able to make the learning come to life for the children; a curriculum which is fun and engaging will create memorable learning experiences for all of our children.

Below are some examples of the opportunities we currently provide (although these are ever-changing according to need):

· Local visits to the market, farms and the fire station for children in

Early Years

· A Grace Darling themed day with drama and dress-up (KS1)

· Trip to the Hepworth art gallery for art workshops (KS1)

· Trip to Legoland Discovery Centre and the Sea Life Centre, Manchester (KS1)

· Local foraging walks linked to a Stoneage topic

· Roman experience day at Murton Park (Y3/4)

· A visit to school by Zoolab (Y4/5)

· Ancient Greek themed day (Y5/6)

· Trip to Eden Camp, Malton linked to WWII topic (Y6)

Healthy Lifestyles

Children benefit enormously from the opportunity to be active and outdoors and we design our curriculum to promote the benefits of healthy lifestyles. We have a purpose built kitchen that whole classes can use. As part of our PSHE and Design and technology curriculum, the children are given the opportunity to learn new skills in the kitchen and try new food.

Each year, we host a Health Week in association with the Healthy Living Team from Calderdale. The children learn about healthy eating and take part in fun exercise workshops. In addition, our year 6 children are invited to take part in Level 1 and 2 Bikeability.

Thrive

We are committed to the THRIVE curriculum and members of trained staff work with increasing effectiveness within classes to identify, through observation, those children who amongst other things:

- may be reluctant to contribute in class or group situations
- ·back down in discussions despite having great ideas
- be over confident so that other's don't get chance to contribute
- give up easily
- love a challenge

Forest Schools

We have staff trained in the delivery of Forest Schools. The opportunity for children to take calculated risks in a safe environment and learn about the outdoors builds self-confidence and independence.

Music and drama events

Our children have many opportunities to take part in whole school and community performances.

Each year, we join with the rest of the schools in the Todmorden cluster to perform at the Advent Service at St. Mary's Church. In addition, key stage 2 perform a carol service at the church and our choir goes out into the community to support local charity and senior citizen events.

Key stage 1 and Early Years children perform an annual Christmas production.

Enterprise Events and School Council

Our school council representatives organize charity events each year. These are to support both national and local charities.

Our Enterprise Event encourages children to work in team to develop and run a project to raise funds.

Building the children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural experiences

- We encourage our children to become active citizens through engagement with projects organised by our School Council or local initiatives
- Through events including our Science week, World Book Day, Reindeer run and school productions, we encourage the children to solve problems, present their ideas to others with confidence and engage with other learners both within our own local community and beyond
- We broaden our children's horizons by providing a wide and rich curriculum which broadens their cultural capital, ignites their spark of curiosity and is responsive to their particular interests