

Spring Edition

January 2026

Dear Families

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable Winter break. We thank you for your patience and support during the settling in period during the Autumn Term and look forward to continuing the learning journey with your children and yourselves.

The Reception Team

Calendar dates:

**School starts again
for children:
Monday 5th January**

**NSPCC Number Day
Friday 6th February**

**Term Ends:
Thursday 12th February
(inset day Friday 13th
February – no children in
school)**

**February Half Term
Monday 16th February
- Friday 20th February**

**School starts again
for children:
Monday 23rd February**

**Parents Evenings:
Tuesday 24th March &
Thursday 26th March
(3:45 - 6:45PM)**

**End of Term
for children:
Friday 27th March
1:30pm Finish**

Subject Coverage

Communication and Language:

We now engage in carpet time sessions, story times and class discussions where children need to listen to adults and each other and share their thoughts and ideas as well as ask questions to clarify their understanding.

We are continuing to introduce new vocabulary and encouraging children to use this in their learning and play. Children are expected to speak using full sentences.

Literacy: We are going to be reading 'The Tiny Seed' and 'I will never ever eat a tomato' linked to our growing topic. We will also be reading 'The Magic Paintbrush.' This is a folk tale and links nicely to our Chinese New Year celebrations. In Spring 2 our books will link to our topic on animals. Children are continuing to learn their letter sounds and practising applying them to reading and writing simple CVC words and phrases/short sentences.

PSED:

We are continuing to support children to express their feelings in appropriate ways and consider the feelings of others. We continue to model sharing, turn taking, and using resources appropriately. We are encouraging children to find ways to resolve issues more independently.

Physical Development:

Outdoor PE – Ball Skills – Children will explore a variety of resources e.g. bean bags and balls and will be working on developing their aim and accuracy when throwing and catching.

Indoor PE - Locomotion - Jumping - Children will explore different types of jumping, jumping from and across different levels.

Handwriting – We are using the Read Write Inc. letter formation rhymes to support children to correctly form their letters as well as Letter Join.

We will also be working on keeping letters an appropriate size on the page and sitting on the line.

Maths: We will be developing our understanding of numbers with lots of opportunities to count,

Reading Records

We will be writing in children's new books on the day they read with us. If your child brings home a RWI book on a Monday, please write the title in their diary for us. Please ensure that you are sharing books and, if appropriate, your child is reading their Read Write Inc. book to you at least 3 times a week and you note it in their reading record.

Tapestry

We are now using tapestry to upload work and learning evidence. You can also upload things to share with us.

Dojo

Please keep a close eye on our dojo class walls as this is our main form of communication and where we will share updates etc.

	<p>order numbers and practice writing our numbers. We are going to be comparing groups using the language more, less and fewer. We are also exploring the composition of numbers within 10 e.g. 2 and 3 makes 5.</p> <p>We will also be looking at capacity language, comparing and describing length and positional and directional language.</p> <p><u>Understanding the World:</u> We will be exploring China, learning about the country and cultures, traditions and places of worship.</p> <p>We will be learning about seasons and exploring the natural world around us. We will also be looking at planting and growing and where our food comes from.</p> <p><u>Expressive Arts and Design:</u> We will be exploring lots of art materials such as paint, crayons, chalks and others. Children will be encouraged to plan and evaluate their work.</p>	
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<p><u>Upcoming Events in Reception</u></p> <p>World Book Day WB 02.03.2026 Mother's Day WB 09.03.2026 Chinese New Year WB 16.03.2026</p>
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<p><u>Trips this term</u></p> <p>TBC – trips, special events.</p>	<p><u>Assemblies</u></p> <p>This term we are going to be having our own year group assemblies to support the children in learning to enter the hall and sit appropriately.</p>
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<p><u>Home and school partnership</u></p> <p>We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arrive at school on time, the gates open at 8.40am and children should be here by 8.50am ● Read daily to develop a love for reading and to improve fluency and literacy skills. ● Share their school experiences with you so that you are aware of their school life. ● Access the RWI links appropriate to your child, shared weekly on the whole school dojo page 	<p><u>Staff in Reception from January:</u> Mrs Whittaker – Class Teacher (Mon & Tues) Miss Hunt – Class Teacher (Wed - Fri) Mrs Mander - TA</p>
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<p><u>Attendance and Punctuality</u></p> <p><i>Do encourage your child to come to school every day unless they are really ill. Remember frequent absences can seriously hinder your child's education. Arriving in school on time is also vital, and helps your child to settle into school life and school routines quicker!</i></p>
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PE Days

PE days are Wednesdays & Thursdays
 Children need to be wearing their outdoor kit –Jogging bottoms, a t-shirt, their hoodie/jumper and appropriate shoes (trainers). Please ensure the items are the correct colours in line with the school policy and that they are plain (no pictures or logos)

Belongings

Please make sure that your child's belongings (uniform, PE kit, lunch box, water bottle) are clearly marked with their name, and are brought to school every day.

UNIFORM PROCEDURES

Wear your Castilion School uniform with pride.

- Children are no longer required to wear white shirts, they can now wear white polo tops. Children can continue to wear the shirts they have until they are ready to be replaced.
- Children are no longer required to wear ties.

All children should wear clothing that is in keeping with a purposeful learning ethos and is based on the following principles:

- Promotes a sense of pride amongst the children in the school
- Engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- Is practical and smart
- Identifies the children with the school
- Is not distracting in class (as fashion clothes might be)
- Makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- Is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents
- Has been designed with health and safety in mind.
- Impacts positively on attitudes to learning



Please note that it is not compulsory to purchase logo items of school uniform, you may purchase plain uniform items from a shop of your choice - something that we actively encourage you to do.

Second-hand uniforms can benefit all parents, particularly those on low incomes. In addition, by extending the life of garments, it is more sustainable.

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grey trousers ▪ Grey shorts in the summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grey skirt/tonic/trousers ▪ Green & white check dress in the summer ▪ Grey shorts in the summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White polo shirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White polo shirt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grey socks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White/grey socks/tights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bottle green pullover or school sweatshirt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bottle green cardigan or school sweatshirt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black school shoes ▪ No <i>trainers or the equivalent</i> ▪ <i>Children are not allowed to wear boots</i> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please note: Shoes should not have flashing lights. Sandals and other open footwear are not allowed at any time of the year</i></p>	

•PE - children should come into school wearing their PE kit on days they have PE lessons

Indoor PE:

- Black shorts
- White T-Shirt

Outdoor PE:

- Black shorts
- White T-Shirt

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bare feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Trainers or Black plimsolls ■ Socks ONLY - No tights
<p>In colder weather (the following is allowed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children may wear a green fleece (with or without a school logo) or a plain black tracksuit with matching hoodie / fleece and black jogging bottoms over their shorts and t shirt. 	
<p>Water Bottles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Please provide your child with a clear plastic, push-up top water bottle 	<p>Jewellery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For health and safety reasons, please do not send your child to school wearing jewellery. If your child has already had his/her ears pierced, they may only wear plain studs, with no stones.
<p>Watches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children may only wear plain, small, watches that only tell the time and do not allow any other activity to be accessed. 	
<p>Hair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children should come to school with sensible haircuts. Skin-head, Mohican, motif haircuts, dyed hair and coloured extensions are not permitted. ■ Children may wear plain beads but these must be tied back. ■ Hair accessories should only be worn in order to keep hair tied back, they should be discreet and plain coloured (black/white/green). ■ Children may wear plain beads but these must be tied back. ■ Hair accessories should only be worn in order to keep hair tied back, they should be discreet and plain coloured (black/white/green). ■ Nail varnish and make-up <u>MUST NOT</u> be worn. 	
<p>Bookbags</p> <p>Children need a green, flat book bag – no backpacks please. These should be clearly named on the outside. School book bags are available on the Mapac website: https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/castilionprimaryschoolse288qa</p>	

Nut Free School

As we have several children in school who suffer from a severe nut allergy we have made the decision to continue forwards as a 'Nut-Free School'. If your child has a nut allergy, could you please inform our Senior Administrator Mrs M Gultekin via the school office and their teacher as soon as possible. Although we are now striving to be a nut-free school, it will be impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that no nuts will be brought onto the premises.



Please record all daily reading in the children's reading record books. Teachers will be checking these and signing them weekly.

Reading records and reading books should be brought to school every day to support progress.

You can order milk for your child if you wish to do so from: <https://customers.coolmilk.com/V2/register/>

Please supply your child with a re-usable, clear, plastic water bottle with a flip up, non-spill lid.

Thank you for your support.