

Cranborne Middle School
Dorset
May 2020

Dear Future Friend in Year 4,

I hope you are ok and not too nervous about starting at CMS. I remember feeling very excited and a little bit worried about meeting my classmates and the teachers, so I know how you feel!

I want to explain a little bit about what it's like to be a pupil at CMS and how I found the first few days of life at Cranborne.

The big day

When you first arrive, you will enter into the assembly hall where everyone else and the Year 5 teachers will also be there to greet you. From there, you will be given a speech from the headmaster, Mr Stevens, where he will tell you about some rules and where everything is, from the library (or LRC) to the Gym and playgrounds! Soon after, you will be given to one of the teachers in Year 5 (Miss Jennings, Miss Cornick, Miss Mills, Miss Rowlands and the Head of Year 5, Mrs Trepess) that you will have been given on transfer day and you will be taken to your tutor room. Then, you will get to do fun activities with your new classmates all about teamwork and friendliness. It is great fun!!!

How I felt

On my first day, I felt a little nervous but the teachers were always there to talk and I soon felt comfortable and had made loads of friends already. Remember, everyone else will be feeling nervous too. The school looks huge at first but over time, you get used to it. I also learned how to get to a secret beach garden to eat your lunch.

Buddies

On transfer day you will be given a Year 8 buddy. This person has been at the school for 4 years and knows everything about the school and life here. They will give you lots of support and confidence as you make your way through Year 5. Every week you get buddy time on a Friday and can do fun activities together. My buddy was so lovely. It's so nice to bump into her around school and she even bought me a Christmas present!

Epraise

At CMS we have a reward system called Epraise where every time you do good school work, are good or help, you get points that you can spend on things or enter draws to win things. If you earn 50 points you get a bronze milestone and if you get 300, you have earned a PLATINUM! If you complete a challenge in school or out, you may get an accolade added to your account. On Epraise, you also have a copy of your timetable, how you are doing in the school, your school photo and an overview of your points.

The Xmas Factor

The Xmas factor is a competition in music where you get an original song and give it a Christmas twist. You are put into groups of 2-6 people and it's a great chance to get to know each other better. You have about 6 weeks to put together the ultimate Christmas hit tune before you perform in front of your classmates. They will then vote for your favourite in each class and whoever wins, will be entered into the quarter final. 2 teams from every year will go through to the semi's and 4 teams go through to the final. It is amazing fun to watch the different instruments played so beautifully!

A Final Word

Good luck on your first day. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all and welcome to the Cranborne Middle School family.

Emily :-)