



Let's Learn Japanese Expressions Related to School Part ①

にほん がかこう つか ことは おぼ
日本の学校で使う言葉覚えましょう

In Japan, there are many **possessions of elementary school students** that may not be very familiar to foreign parents. So, in this month's multicultural notes, we would like to introduce some typical possessions of elementary school students. (The common names of the school belongings below are used, but they may be called differently depending on the school.)

Elementary School Belongings		
Japanese How to Read	English Explanation	School Belongings
制服 <i>Seifuku</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ School uniform: Used in some elementary schools in Fukuroi City instead of private clothes. 	
名札 <i>Nafuda</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Name tag: Usually required for school students to wear in schools (especially junior high school and below). 	
ランドセル <i>Randoseru</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ School backpack made of leather, etc. A firm-sided backpack usually carried on the back of most elementary school students to and from school, containing school textbooks, notebooks, etc. 	
横断バッグ <i>Odan Bag</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ School satchel: A conspicuous dark yellow-colored handbag used by elementary school students when going to and from school. The word "Odan-chu" (Crossing) is printed on it so that drivers will easily notice it when the child is walking on the pedestrian crossing. 	
体操服／体操着 <i>Taisofuku/Taiikugi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Gym uniform: Clothes worn during P.E classes and other physical activities to make it easier to move. Also used for excursions and volunteer activities. In some schools, gym uniforms designed by the school are worn regularly inside the school. 	
上靴／上履き <i>Uwagutsu/Uwabaki</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Gym shoes/ Indoor shoes: Unique to Japanese school custom. Footwear used in areas where shoes are not allowed to be worn such as gymnasiums, classrooms, staff rooms and other rooms inside the school (<i>Shitsunai</i>), which is also called Shitsunaibaki. 	
赤白帽子 <i>Akashiro-boshi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Red and white cap: A gymnastic cap used as part of the gym uniform of Japanese elementary school children. Mainly used during P.E. classes, athletic meets, and other events. Sometimes used to group students by the two colors of their caps, red & white (<i>Kohaku</i>), which are also called Kohaku-bo. 	
教科書 <i>Kyokasho</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ School textbook: Main books used for school subjects. To every student in public schools, one school textbook for each subject is given free of charge. School textbooks are clearly distinguished from other materials called "fukukyoza" (supplementary materials), "textbook", "workbook" "handbook," etc. 	
鍵盤ハーモニカ <i>Kenban hamonika</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Keyboard harmonica: An instrument used in elementary school music classes, and sometimes called a Pianica (the product name). 	
リコーダー <i>Rikoda</i> ➢ Recorder: カスタネット <i>Kastanetto</i> ➢ Castanet:	<p>Additional instruments often used in elementary school music classes</p>	

In relation to the above notes, please check the following website for an introduction to Japanese elementary schools by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for more information through the **right QR code**.
[Monbusho, "Oshiete! Nihon no Shogakko" ("Tell Me About Elementary School in Japan!") English version]

