

3rd January 2021

January 2021 – Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

We hope you have had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas time and are keeping well.

Following the recent government announcements, we would like to confirm that both school sites will be open from Tuesday 5th January with the same year group bubble start and finish times as we were working with prior to Christmas. We appreciate your punctuality and adherence to these timings.

We would like to **strongly suggest** that adults wear face coverings at drop-off and pick-ups, maintain social distancing, and where possible we ask that only one parent/carer delivers/collects so that we can **keep the number of adults to a minimum at any one time.**

Please also ensure that your children come in wrapped up warmly for winter weather in ventilated classrooms. Having spent Saturday preparing for re-opening we can confirm it is a very fresh environment!

To keep you up to date there is a statement from Councillor Keith Mans – Hampshire County Council Leader which was released today, this will also be posted on our website in due course. See below:

Hampshire County Council Leader, Councillor Keith Mans responds to parents' and teachers' concerns about the return of primary schools after the Christmas holidays.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Keith Mans is contacting the Secretary of State for Education to stress the concerns of Hampshire parents and teachers in relation to Covid-19 measures ahead of the return to the classroom by primary school children.

Councillor Mans said: "I am aware that some parents are worried about whether to send their children back into primary schools tomorrow and I can fully understand these anxieties, with Hampshire currently in Tier 4. There is also significant media focus on rising rates of infection nationally - and for us locally in Rushmoor, as well as the wider county as a whole.

"The competing and growing concerns about whether to open or close schools are clearly evident, and the need to strike a balance between the physical and mental well-being of pupils when they do not attend school and the continued spread of the virus. We understand the Government's exceptionally difficult decisions in this regard – which are based on wider ranges of information than these increasing rates.

"Hampshire's early years providers and countywide family of schools are continuing to work hard to keep Hampshire's pupils, teachers and school staff safe, by implementing appropriate measures to help prevent the spread of infections when they are in school.

"We are extremely grateful for all the work that is being undertaken, and I am aware that many staff will have worked over the Christmas period to ensure that measures remain in place and adhere to the latest national guidance."



Link to the statement online: [Hampshire County Council Leader, Councillor Keith Mans responds to parents' and teachers' concerns about the return of primary schools after the Christmas holidays | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

We very much appreciate your support and wish you all a happy new year 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John DF Martin'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Kind regards

Mr John DF Martin and the Castle Hill Team