

3rd September 2021

Final preparations for the start of term & Covid guidance

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

First things first, we hope you are safe, well and have had some form of a summer holiday. We cannot wait to welcome all the children back into school and extend a special warm welcome to any new members of the Castle Hill school community. In preparation for the start of term, please find below an update on Covid measures in place at school in accordance with the latest Government guidance.

Many of the Department for Education Covid guidelines for schools have been relaxed, so pupils will return to Castle Hill Primary this Autumn with a feeling that things are getting back to normal. We have reviewed and updated our procedures to maintain our high standards and our commitment to:

- ensure that all pupils and members of staff are safe
- continue to provide the highest quality of teaching and learning and
- minimise the disruption that the virus causes to our children's education.

'Bubble' system

- The system of bubbles (where children can only mix within a fixed group and in their teaching zones) has been fine-tuned and not ended at Castle Hill. We will keep some bubble integrity for teaching & learning but will enable some mixing in year group pairs (Year1/2, Year3/4 & Year5/6; Year R will be self-contained) at break and lunch.
- In-person assemblies will return within the extended bubble groups.
- Social distancing restrictions have been removed from our wrap-around and after school activities.

Uniform expectations

- Children will wear normal school uniform, except on their PE days when they will continue to wear their PE kit to school, eliminating the need to get changed at school.
- **PE kits** need to be in **strict adherence** to the **uniform policy** -> <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/uniform-personal-belongings>
- **PE days** are on the website -> <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/our-school/pe-and-sports/pe-and-sports>
- **MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER EXCEPTION - Year 4 at Greenbank and Year 3 & 4 at Rooksdown should wear school uniform for this day only. Year 5 at both sites should wear PE kit.**

Sanitising, cleaning and ventilation

- VVVs – Vaccination, Vigilance & Ventilation.
- Children will wash their hands when arriving at school and hand sanitisers will be available across the school.
- Our programme of regular cleaning and sanitising throughout each day will continue across the school.
- We will keep doors and windows open to allow ventilation.

Attendance, close contact and isolation

- School attendance is compulsory and we will follow our usual absence procedures in the case of absence and lateness. Clinically Extremely Vulnerable children must attend school, unless explicitly told not to do so by their GP. If the GP says not to attend, the school will require proof of this.

- Pupils below the age of 18 years and 6 months and individuals who are fully vaccinated are not required to self-isolate and should continue to go to school if they live in the same household as someone with Covid OR are a close contact of someone with Covid. They will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#).
- Anyone with Covid [symptoms](#) or a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result should stay at home, self-isolate immediately and arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. Please keep the school (admin@chjs.net) informed if a child has a positive LFD test and the outcome of the PCR test.
- If the PCR test is negative, the pupil can return to school. If the PCR test is positive, please inform the school and follow [the latest Government guidance for confirmed Covid infections](#).
- If a child develops symptoms while at school, they will be asked to wait in one of our self-isolation rooms while a parent is contacted and asked to collect them as quickly as possible.
- Please keep children at home if they are feeling unwell. Even if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms, or their COVID-19 test is negative, they may still have an illness which could be passed on to other people.

Parents and school

- Home-school contact will continue to be by phone, Dojo and email. In exceptional, unique and compelling circumstances, parents who wish to speak face-to-face with a member of staff can do so by making an appointment.
- Parents will be encouraged to wear face coverings when on the school site and meetings will happen outside where possible.

We do miss the contact with you, but with more than a thousand parents, we are sure you will understand why we have to maintain the current protocols. When Mr Martin is out on his litter-picking patrols in the morning, he is pleased to see you smiling and exchanging greetings.

Drop off and pick-ups

- Staggered drop off and pick-ups will continue, but with some amendments based on your feedback. Siblings can continue to be dropped off and collected together with their oldest sibling, at the oldest siblings' time and gate.

Year Group	Arrival time	Finish time	Entry/exit gate
Year R - Rooksdown	08:45	15:00	Year R gate on service road
Year 1 - Rooksdown	08:45	15:00	Park gate
Year 2 - Rooksdown	08:45	15:00	Park gate
Year 3 - Rooksdown	08:40	14:55	Lower gate on service road
Year 4 - Rooksdown	08:40	14:55	Lower gate on service road
Year 5 - Rooksdown	08:35	14:50	Park gate
Year 6 - Rooksdown	08:35	14:50	Park gate
Year 3 - Greenbank	08:35	14:50	Lower gate onto Winklebury Way
Year 4 - Greenbank	08:35	14:50	Hillcrest Walk gate at top of stairs
Year 5 - Greenbank	08:45	15:00	Hillcrest Walk gate at top of stairs
Year 6 - Greenbank	08:45	15:00	Lower gate onto Winklebury Way

School lunches.

- Please refer to the letter about pre-ordering school meals sent out this week.
- If you need a link code to be able to order online, please contact the school office (Year R will be given this at the home visit).
- Your child's account will need to have a **credit balance** for you to order a school meal (£2.50/meal).
- If your child is eligible for Free School Meal or Universal Infant Free School Meals (Year R – Year 2), the meal is free but you will still need to select the meal choice.
- The menu for September and details of how to order are on the website -> <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/school-meals>

Trips and activities

- With the easing of restrictions, we look forward to reintroducing more trips and external activities as part of our educational programmes. Further details will follow when new trips and activities are announced.

Sorry to send you, yet again, so much information, but we would just like to finish by saying a huge thank you for all the cards, good wishes and gifts that were sent into the school at the end of the term. It really does lift the spirits and, as one parent said, "Castle Hill really is one big family" and we completely agree!

Mr John DF Martin and The Castle Hill Team