

4th January 2021

Start of Term Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

Following on from yesterday's communication we are currently still intending to open to all pupils tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January 2021). Being in school is vital for the children's education and wellbeing and our desire to support this, when it is deemed safe to do so, is at the core of everything we do.

We understand that some of you may be concerned about what tomorrow may bring in light of restrictions that are in place across many areas of the country and the rising number of reported cases in and around Hampshire. Since returning to school in September, we have always followed the advice that we have been given and we would like to thank you all for your support.

The current expectation from the DfE is that all of our children should be in school from the start of Spring Term (5th January). As at any other time, we need to be informed of any pupil's absence and the reason for their absence. Unfortunately, worries about Covid transmission are not a valid reason for absence under the current DfE guidance.

As a reminder, if your child has:

1. been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, they will need to self-isolate for the full 10 days after the individual tested positive
2. a household member who has tested positive, all members of the household should self-isolate for the full 10 days after the individual first displayed Covid-19 symptoms
3. started to feel unwell and are displaying Covid-19 symptoms and/or are awaiting a test result, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms

Whilst in the 10-day self-isolation period, regardless of whether your child receives a negative test result, they **must complete the 10-day isolation**, this is because they could still go onto to develop Covid-19 within the remaining days.

In the event that we are instructed to close the school to everyone except our vulnerable and critical worker children, please be assured that we will move immediately to virtual teaching. In light of the current situation, our contingency plan has been reviewed today and will be on the website in due course.

The guidance is ever changing and we will endeavor, as always, to do our very best to inform you of any changes as we ourselves learn of them. We really do appreciate your continued patience and understanding in these most challenging times.



Kind regards

Mr John DF Martin and the Castle Hill Team