

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### Happy New Year and Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill Primary,

Firstly, we hope that you all had a restful time over the festive period and were able to spend times with loved ones. We are very much looking forward to the children returning to school tomorrow.

As you will no doubt have seen on the news, COVID-19 is still providing operational headaches for the country, but the Government have made it clear that schools should do their best to stay open for children – and this continues to be our primary objective. We are pleased to be able to tell you that we are able to open to all year groups tomorrow, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, and that the drop-off and pick-up arrangements will remain the same as last term. However, we also have to let you know that we do have staff members who are currently isolating due to positive tests over the Christmas break. We are doing our utmost to sustain year group bubbles in order to minimise mixing, which has meant that in certain year groups the class teacher will not be in front of the class tomorrow. At the time of writing, this is affecting Year R and Year 6 at our Rooksdown campus and one Year 3 class at Greenbank. All classes are being covered by staff that the children know and the class teachers will be zooming in to teach from their home at points during the day, which will ensure the staff maintain contact with the children. Year group teams will contact those directly affected on Class Dojo and will upload videos to reassure the children.

As we have previously communicated, our control measures (such as year group bubbles; staggered start/end times and play/lunchtimes; regular hand-washing; mask-wearing by staff around the school and enhanced site cleaning throughout the day) are still very much in place. We would please ask that you continue to be vigilant regarding your child's health and if they develop symptoms they should isolate and you should arrange a PCR test. Please note updated guidance regarding self-isolation and testing of close contacts:

**Self-isolation period** – this continues to be 10 days. However, individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result **and return to school from day 7**.

**Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19** - People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Please continue to report positive cases to [admin@castlehillprimary.net](mailto:admin@castlehillprimary.net) and include details of start date of symptoms, which symptoms if any, LFD or PCR test results.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr John DF Martin and the Castle Hill Team