

Friday 5th June 2020

Update on Week 1 of Partial Reopening

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

Firstly, thank you for yet more lovely messages of support during these challenging times. They are very much appreciated and help to keep staff morale high.

As you know, some pupils in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 returned to school on Monday 1st June 2020. They joined the key workers and vulnerable pupils who have been attending throughout lockdown both during term time and over the holidays. The new arrivals have settled in well and are getting used to the new routines, expectations and learning environments. The success this week is largely down to the huge amount of focused preparation made by the whole team, over the past few weeks and throughout half term. Teachers have taken time to plan and liaise with colleagues, so that the learning experiences, both on site and remotely, are in-line with each other. The site team have undertaken extensive risk assessments and have adapted the classrooms and wider school environment so that the children are safe as possible. The administration staff, who continue to take parents queries and concerns, have also been setting up the systems to help the school manage this crisis. As the leadership team, we have been here daily from the start of lockdown to support, guide and oversee colleagues during all the changes throughout.

We have continued to review practices this week and you will find an addendum to our Behaviour Policy on the website. We encourage you to read this through this policy and talk to your children about the changes. Each Pod is doing their own Code of Conduct linked to this document. Thank you in advance for your support.

It is our aim at Castle Hill Primary to remain open every day for all our Pods. In order to do this, we are bringing additional staff in on Fridays and we will run a socially distanced Friday Fun afternoon. This will allow the different teams to make the necessary preparations for the following week both practically and academically. **It will also mean that all remote learning will cease at midday on a Friday and remote teachers will not be available on ClassDojo until teaching resumes on Monday morning.**

This time away from Pods and Virtual Learning is essential for;

- Pod teams to discuss the week's learning, plan ahead and make adaptations where needed
- Pod teachers to liaise with their year group colleagues working remotely so the learning experiences for all our pupils in line
- Pod teachers, who are onsite with pupils outside their usual year group, can liaise with their own classes

It will also allow site staff to commence the final deep clean of the week promptly to be ready for Monday morning. We hope you appreciate the support we are trying to give working families, we recognise the stresses everyone has been under. As a team we will continue to do our very best to support the Castle Hill Community.

Thank you again for all your messages. We wish you a restful weekend.

Mr JDF Martin and The Castle Hill Team