

6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## **Updated advice for parents**

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

As most of you are already aware on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 the Department for Education (DfE) updated its guidance to clarify what actions staff and pupils should take if feeling unwell or after testing positive for COVID-19: [Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19). We have received a number of queries relating to this and other areas over the last couple of days so wanted to clarify some key points.

### **New self-isolating guidance for pupils and staff**

- Those with a positive test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people:
  - Staff for 5 days
  - Pupils for 3 days
- Both pupils and staff should try to stay home and avoid contact with others if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection and a high temperature, or if they feel unwell (returning to school when they feel well enough, and no longer have a high temperature)
- Anyone who is already isolating can transfer to this new guidance, which also means that there is no longer a requirement to test on day 5/6 to return to school
- Asymptomatic testing is no longer expected in schools and we can no longer order free lateral flow tests.

### **Education**

- ‘The remote education temporary continuity direction’ legislation was withdrawn on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Schools are no longer legally required to provide remote education, however as this is good practice, it is something that the school will keep under review.

### **Attendance**

- Schools are still required to report attendance weekly to the DfE
- The DfE guidance has changed so that absence for pupils who are not attending school for reasons related to Covid-19 will now be recorded under illness (code I) and as such this will be reflected in their attendance %.

## Health & Safety Measures

- Our **outbreak management plan** for Covid-19 will be incorporated into our overall emergency plan

We will continue:

- to minimise risk by allowing parents inside the school buildings by appointment only. However, with the warmer weather just around the corner we look forward to welcoming parents onto the school grounds for some outside events
- to encourage pupils to **wash their hands** throughout the school day and to use the hand sanitisers available
- to ensure classrooms and communal areas are **well-ventilated** and utilise our CO2 monitors
- with our **enhanced Covid cleaning regime**, in addition to the normal daily cleaning and holiday deep clean.

## Drop-off and Collection Arrangements

- From Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April we will revert back to our pre-Covid school day see table below as a reminder
- **If you have children in different key stages, you will need to drop off at the earlier time**
- Children arriving after the drop off times below will need to report via the main reception where they will have to be signed in by a parent and give the reason for their lateness.

Key Stage	Drop Off Time	Collection Time
EYFS & KS1 (Year R – 2)	8:45 – 9:00 am	3:00 pm
KS2 (Year 3 – 6)	8:35 – 8:50 am	3:00 pm

We are looking forward to the summer term and thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you a restful Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mr John DF Martin and the Castle Hill Team