

### **Covid -19 Update**

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

We would like to thank you for your ongoing partnership and for supporting us with COVID-safe behaviours. You will be aware that positive cases of the virus in the community remain high and we want to keep you informed of how this evolving situation is being reflected within our own school community. We also want to update you on some of the actions we are taking to mitigate the risks in the run up to Christmas.

We have had a few confirmed Covid-19 cases in the last week at both school sites, but wanted to reassure you that the levels in both campuses remain low and below the threshold levels (see below) set by Public Health England (PHE):

- 5 cases who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for Covid-19 within a 10-day period
- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for Covid-19 within a 10-day period

Since our return to school in September, we have put in place measures to ensure the school stays safe and open so that we can continue to deliver face to face education. Some additional measures have been introduced following an update to the school's guidance on Monday, 29th November. Please read the measures below that support us in keeping our school safe:

- Children will be in year group bubbles for most of the time when indoors
- Avoid mixing of year groups that have not previously mixed, where possible
- Face-to-face assemblies have been paused between now and the end of term
- Prospective Open Days – virtual rather than face-to-face
- Parents Evenings – virtual rather than face-to-face
- Enhanced Covid-19 cleaning throughout the day
- Wherever possible, staff maintain social distancing with the children and other adults, particularly when working in year groups that are not their own
- Requirements for all staff and visitors to wear face coverings in communal areas unless they are exempt. At the moment it does not extend to the classroom
- Ensure that specialist visitors, such as music teachers and clinicians, understand all of the risk reduction measures in place and adhere to them
- Twice-weekly asymptomatic staff testing (Lateral Flow Tests) continues
- External doors and/or windows will be open if it is warm enough to do so. We will ensure that the need for increased ventilation is balanced with maintaining a comfortable temperature indoors
- New CO2 meters within the classrooms to allow staff to monitor ventilation within classrooms
- If any communal equipment is used, it is wiped down with sanitising spray or washed before subsequent use

#### **If anyone is unwell:**

- No adult or child should attend school if he or she appears to be unwell with a high temperature, loss of smell or taste or a new, continuous, dry cough
- Anyone developing these symptoms over the course of a day will be sent home

- Anyone with these symptoms must stay at home and should book a PCR Covid test immediately
- If the PCR test is positive, the school and NHS Test and Trace must be notified immediately
- NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts – schools are no longer responsible for this
- If the test is negative, then the child or adult should return to school as soon as he or she is well enough to do so
- It is a legal requirement to self-isolate for 10 days following the onset of symptoms leading to a positive PCR test, or, if asymptomatic, for 10 days from the date of the test
- If the PCR test result is negative, and was within 48 hours of the positive LFD test, the negative PCR result overrides the LFD and normal activities can resume
- If the test result is positive, then they must self-isolate for 10 days and the guidance below should be followed for the rest of the household
- If any adult or child who administers their own LFD test and receives a positive result, they should notify the school immediately, stay at home and book a PCR test.

We also wanted to share a communication we have received from Simon Bryant, Director of Public Health at Hampshire County Council, about events and other measures in the last few weeks of the Autumn Term. This should hopefully also give you the context in which we are operating.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation. The school setting remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.



Yours sincerely

John DF Martin & The CHPS Team