

May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Phased Reopening June 2020**

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill

We hope this letter finds you and your families well. Firstly, can we thank you for your on-going support and understanding in these demanding times. As you know, the government is planning a gradual return to school from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June for some year groups - YR, Y1 and Y6 initially. We would like to state that the school has been open continuously since March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020, catering for vulnerable pupils and pupils of key workers. We miss the rest of the children and all your families on a daily basis. We are all keen to get the whole school back into a safe working environment but must stress the safety of our pupils and our staff remains our number one priority.

As we gradually reopen, we must stress that we will be providing a very different and limited provision. There are several factors that will affect pupils and staff on site and we have listed some of these considerations below:

1. **Staff availability** – some staff are in vulnerable or shielded categories, or are carers for shielded people. Other staff may have children, who are not school age and therefore have no childcare provision. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that the teacher on site will be their class teacher.
2. **Room availability** – we need to provide for 2m social distancing. Although the government may suggest we run half classes (15 pupils), in practice this is impossible to achieve. It is also incredibly difficult to expect children aged 4 to 11 years to remember the social distancing rules.
3. **Limited interaction** – there needs to be limited interaction between pupil groups, which in turn means limited movement around the school. Pupils will be based within the same classroom/area for the day.
4. **Staggered timings** – we are considering the need to stagger arrival times, breaks, lunchtimes and end of day times to minimise mingling.
5. **Hygiene and behaviour** – in order to minimise the risk of infection and transmission, children will be expected to maintain stricter levels of hand washing and general hygiene at all times. The children will also be required to comply with social distancing protocols; this requires our usual high standard of sensible, calm behaviour from all pupils.

For a variety of reasons, you may be concerned about your child's return to school. We fully respect this and re-state this is a parental choice and there will be no penalties for families that elect to keep their child(ren) at home. As you can imagine, when dealing with more than 500 families there are many differing approaches for getting through these challenging times. Please rest assured we are trying our best to get this right by keeping your child safe, healthy and well educated. As we get more facts and figures on staff availability and pupil numbers, we will be in touch with a more detailed plan for parents in the three priority year groups.

A quick reminder that this week, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May is an INSET day so teachers will be involved in staff training and planning and therefore will not be setting home learning activities on ClassDojo.

Thank you again for your patience - stay safe stay strong.

Mr John DF Martin and The Castle Hill Team