

21<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### CHPS Update Letter

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

The sun is out and your kind messages of support throughout the continuing Covid challenge are much appreciated. You may be aware that we had 17 members of staff out last Monday and have 12 out today. We re-group and re-deploy every day to ensure the school remains open in all year groups, whilst also supporting those children isolating with Covid to access remote learning. Our rules on ventilation, in-house mask wearing, hand-washing and limiting visitors onsite all remain in place. Your understanding of pinch points (for example if an extra-curricular club is cancelled), is not only valued but very much in keeping with the CHPS team spirit.

The old chestnut of driving carefully to school and parking considerately remains a challenge. If you are able to walk your child to school safely, please do so. If you have to drive, please consider our local community by parking considerately, treating others in the way you would like to be treated yourself. For details of the park and stride maps please refer to our website <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/travel-to-school>.

With the increased use of digital technologies by children both in and out of school, it is vital that parents and carers are aware of new developments and how to keep their children safe online. We are pleased to be able to provide you with this information via a free website and app with an ever-expanding database of help guides, information sheets and videos to help you navigate digital life. Sign up via <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/castle-hill-primary-school-5>.

It is really great to see more competitive sports taking place. We embrace competition at CHPS and have many talented young sports women and men. Just a reminder that P.E and school uniform are a key part of our school ethos and our strict uniform policy will be monitored every day. If you are in any doubt, the details can be found on our website <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/uniform-personal-belongings>.

Huge thanks to the large majority of parents who respect the school holiday timetable and have excellent attendance. For those who disregard **all** advice, unfortunately government and county guidance make it clear a penalty notice (fine) will be issued. Information on attendance can be found on our website <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/our-school/attendance>.

As much as I love seeing parents, almost every morning at either one school or the other, I will miss you for a couple of weeks. Jury service (I managed to get it postponed last year) is now on my agenda starting Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March.



Lastly, we are one of the most oversubscribed schools in the county and this year we have received a record number of applicants looking to join our school in September. The main round admissions are managed centrally by Hampshire with the notification day being 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022. We look forward to seeing who will be joining us and hope that there are no families who are keen to enrol their child with us but who fail to gain a space.

Looking ahead, if you have any contacts who could help develop our school grounds, then please get in touch. We have some BIG ideas! Outdoor classrooms, summer houses, nature trails, possible tennis court and putting greens have all been mentioned. If we can, we will, somehow!

As you can see, we are still pushing onwards and upwards to provide a truly world class education for one and all at CHPS. With your help and vital partnership, we can only go from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr JDF Martin and team