

26th February 2021

Covid-19 Update: Return to School on 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

You will doubtlessly have heard the news that the government intends to open schools for all children from **Monday 8th March**. The team are really looking forward to having all the children back, and the teachers are delighted that we are moving towards some form of normality in the classrooms. We know that this news will be greatly welcomed by parents and children alike.

You have been fantastically supportive of the high demand of home schooling. Attendance for Zoom calls and children participating in the home school lessons have been consistently high and truly heartening. **Huge thanks for all your stoic work.** As one parent said, we have truly worked together as a school community and supported each other; this is a true strength of the CHPS Team. The positive messages, cards, cakes and jokes (sorry about my poor attempts) have kept spirits high and again we thank you.

We should all be reassured and encouraged that the scientific and medical experts have concluded that it is now safe for children to return to school. It is so important to get children back into school before the Easter holidays so that we can continue to build the momentum of the school year. With numbers of infections falling and the vaccination programme making good progress reaching those most vulnerable to Covid-19, we can be hopeful that this stage of the pandemic is coming to an end. We must, of course however, **remain vigilant and continue to follow the guidelines** that have become so routine across the school this academic year.

As you can imagine, we are already preparing to facilitate a smooth a transition back to school. We will be continuing with the preventative measures already in place, this includes staggered arrivals and collection times; Pod systems to reduce mixing; and strict hygiene routines. Your support by wearing a mask when dropping off/collecting children; keeping the number of adults to a minimum and reinforcing the message of good hygiene practices at home are hugely appreciated.

We will send out a reminder communication next week highlighting the guidelines, routines and timetables that are in place. We will also be posting a short video message to the children so that they can see that school is pretty much the way they left it at Christmas and to reassure them that not much has changed. **Our remote learning programme will continue until Friday 5th March. Every day is vital in your child's education** so it is very important that all pupils continue to work hard in school and at home to keep up with their lessons and learning.

We look forward to welcoming **all pupils back to school on Monday 8th March**. If there is anything else we can do to help, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the class teacher or the admin team.

Thanks again

John DF Martin and the Castle Hill Team

