



@chps_bstoke

Castle Hill Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Campus: Whole School

Date: 11 September 2020

Website: <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/>

WELCOME BACK!

We are delighted to be able to welcome everyone back to school this week and extend a warm to the children and families who are joining us for the first time. We hope you were able to enjoy some of the gorgeous weather over the summer. The first week has been incredible positive and it has been wonderful to see all the children coming back looking smart in their uniforms, smiling and getting to know their new teachers.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation, support and patience this week as we have started back and tweaked our drop-off and pick-up arrangements (a separate letter will be sent). We are continually monitoring and taking on board your feedback and we hope you can see how rapidly we are responding to situations arising.

In the event of a second lockdown, please be aware that we are fully prepared and creating a School Contingency Plan for Remote Learning. This will be uploaded onto the school website next week under <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/covid-19-information>

NEW STAFF:

In addition to the new teachers we announced in July, we have a few more new staff to bring to your attention. Ashton Clayton and Olivia Chambers join the team at Rooksdown as PTPS and Liam James has taken on a Pastoral role currently at Rooksdown. A warm welcome to Michael Nash, Lisa Jordan, Marie Rounce and Elanor Steadman who join our Premises Team (recruited to help with the numerous new cleaning challenges) Michael and Lisa are also supporting us at lunchtimes along with Ella Hogan. Please take a look at the website for details: <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/our-school/staff>

UNIFORM:

Thank you for the fantastic support from the CHPS community with virtually 99% of pupils in full uniform and looking great! We are aware that there may have been some stock issues with school uniform, but believe these are now resolved. Please can we remind you that we operate a strict uniform policy. The uniform is continually enhanced by pupil input and is supported by all. There is **no exception**. For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear any jewellery and must have long hair tied back. Earrings must **NOT** be worn at any time in school and please note that school staff are not permitted to remove earrings.

<https://www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/uniform-personal-belongings>

EXCITING WORKS OVER THE SUMMER:

As you know we never stand still and we tackled a number of tasks over the summer:

New Early Years Outdoor Area - Rooksdown

Back in July, work commenced on improving our outdoor area for our Year R pupils, with painting, mending and tidying we know this will make a massive difference for our children.

Ventilation Works – Rooksdown

We have had contractors in all over the summer break to install a new ventilation system at Rooksdown in the upstairs classrooms of Phase 1. This will make these teaching spaces cooler in the summer months and improve the air quality all year round.

Outside Grounds – Greenbank

The Greenbank site has seen our playground improved even further! The top playground now has multi-court line markings and a border of artificial grass. Furthermore, the previously disused playground area behind the hall has undergone significant improvement with some interactive line markings ready for the children.

PUPIL PREMIUM:

We are aware that the last few months have been quite unsettling for a number of families and with some ongoing uncertainties your situations at home may have changed. As a reminder Pupil Premium funding may be available to the school if you are in receipt of one of the following;

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (with income up to £16,190) with no element of working tax credit
- National Asylum Seekers Support
- Guarantee Element of the State Pension Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Universal Credit (income dependant)

If you think you may be eligible for Pupil premium funding, please email admin@chjs.net or call the office. All enquiries are treated confidentially.

LUNCHTIME:

Please find details in the link below for the interim menu this half term. There will not be the usual 3 week rolling menu and this will be the only menu until such time as we are able to extend it again and allow all years to eat in the dining hall. Please scroll to the bottom of this page to find the menu <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/school-meals>

For now, children can continue to choose their lunch option each day at registration with their teacher. Soon, we are looking to trail online bookings for lunches in some year groups, so that lunches can be booked in advance through the Scopay app. This is simple and easy to use and allows you to discuss options with your children at home in advance. More to follow on this in coming weeks.

DIARY DATES:

We will be issuing some diary dates in the near future and these will also be made available on the website calendar <https://www.castlehillprimary.net/calendar>. We are going to have to approach a number of events slightly differently this term, including Parent Share, Parent Expectation Meetings and Parents Evenings to name but a few. Once the details are confirmed, we will share these with you.

MEDICAL:

If your child uses an inhaler, however infrequently, or requires access to emergency medical treatment (e.g. EpiPen's), please ensure the school is fully aware and holds the appropriate supply of the necessary medication. It is regarded as good practice for schools to have duplicates of inhalers so that one is with the child (in class) and one is in the Medical Room. All medication should be signed in, labelled and in date. You are asked to check this and replace as appropriate.

ATTENDANCE:

With the new school year now underway, we ask for your support to enable your child(ren) to enjoy the best possible level of attendance – especially after so much time missed by everyone over the last few months. We are off to a good start this week with Rookdowns attendance overall being 96.7% and Greenbanks attendance 98.2%. This is fantastic!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Please be mindful of using social media platforms to express opinions or grievances in relation to the school. Staff are human and judgements without knowledge can zap morale when every team member is going above and beyond to do their very best. We always welcome constructive thoughts and ideas, so please come directly to the school if you wish to discuss a matter.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS:

We have numerous schemes within the school to help raise needed funds, e.g. Happy School Bags (next collection is 9th October and bags being sent out next week) and [easyfundraising](#) (raising money for the school while shopping), recycling ink cartridges, uniform name labels. Please visit our Fundraising Opportunities web page or Fundraising Friends pages to find out more.

HOME SCHOOL DIARY (ROOKSDOWN):

The children have returned home this week with a home school diary. Please use this to note down the work that your child completes at home. On a weekly basis, the teachers will check these diaries and award charter marks accordingly. In order to get the five charter marks on offer each week, the children must have perfect attendance/punctuality, behaviour/manners, uniform/PE kit and have practiced their reading and times tables at least four times. More information on the Charter Marks can be found on page two of the home school diaries as well as the all-important 'Award Landmarks' which outline how many charter marks they need in order to receive their awards.

COMMUNICATIONS & CLASS DOJOS:

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for you to talk to the teachers at drop off or pickup so we are encouraging you to continue using the Class Dojo system for messaging. Teachers will access the Class Dojo system between 08:00 and 16:00 on week days, and will get back to you as soon as they are able. They may not be able to respond immediately as they will obviously be in class teaching. Alternatively, you can phone or email the admin team and they will pass on any messages.

eSAFETY:

We are aware of certain unpleasant videos and photos being circulated on social media at present. As always, our recommendations are that pupils at Castle Hill should not be using social media, especially if unsupervised and would recommend parents ensure they are aware of what their children are doing on any electronic devices they have access to at home. However, we also know some pupils will be using social media so also teach pupils that if they see something that upsets them then they should seek assistance from an adult they trust. If you are concerned about anything relating to social media, we would advise looking at the school website (www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/links-for-parents) for multiple sites to support you in looking after your children whilst online at home.

WRAP AROUND CARE – Greenbank Campus:

In response to feedback from some parents, we are sending out a survey to our Greenbank parents to see if there is sufficient demand for an After-School Club. If the survey shows sufficient demand within our Greenbank Campus, we would hope to launch the provision. It is really important that parents who want this service complete the online survey, we would like to gauge interest as soon as possible to get a good indication of the demand.

The last time a survey was sent out there wasn't enough demand for complete wrap-around care. There was, however, sufficient demand for a breakfast club and as you are probably aware we started to offer this at Greenbank in September 2019. The Breakfast Club proved to be very successful last year and is available for booking again this September. The current Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am until school starts with breakfast included.

Given the current Covid-19 situation children need to be split by their year groups, and because of this places would be restricted.

This survey will close on Friday 18 th September.

Please click the link to access the survey: <https://forms.gle/UR42UHBVrAQpUq3P9>

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

The CHPS Team