

18th September 2020

COVID-19 Symptoms & Absence Guidance

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

Understandably we have had some calls from concerned parents regarding the latest government guidance on pupils and/or family members with possible COVID-19 symptoms and whether to send children into school. We completely understand that we are all dealing with difficult and confusing times but please be assured we are working to every up-to-date guideline available to us. Please refer to the school COVID Information web page:

<https://www.castlehillprimary.net/parents/covid-19-information>

Coughs and colds

Unfortunately as the schools go back and children start to mix, coughs and colds are very common and are likely to increase, especially at this time of the year. If your child has a simple cold or a sore throat and they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, you may still send them to school. If students have a bad cold or sore throat, please check they are otherwise well and take their temperature before sending them to school. If they have any one of the key symptoms: a new persistent cough, a high temperature or a change/loss in taste or smell, they will need to be kept home. They and the entire household will need to isolate for the periods of times described in the guidance or until a negative test result is received. Please find a simple flowchart below to help determine whether your child should stay at home and visit the government website for further guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Testing and results

If you decide to keep your child at home for self-isolation, or you are asked to collect your child, please ensure that you book a test as soon as possible. We are told that logging onto the testing website at 8am or 10pm will increase chances of getting an appointment nearby. Please inform the school office when you have secured a test with the time and date and the result as soon as it arrives. A positive result means that we would have actions to take. A negative result means that we can look forward to welcoming your child back to school.

Remote learning

We do have a remote learning contingency plan in place if your child is having to self-isolate. After notifying the school office regarding your child's absence and informing us that you're awaiting a COVID test and/or having to self-isolate, the Admin team will make the class teacher aware and send you a 'Remote Learning' letter detailing all relevant information and next steps.

On behalf of the whole team here at CHPS, keep safe and well.

Kind regards

The Castle Hill Team

Should I keep my child at home?

