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5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,
PLANS TO REOPEN CASTLE PARK SCHOOL

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. Firstly, I would like to thank you for the wonderful job you have been doing at home supporting the education of your child(ren). We are very aware of the challenges this has brought but we are all very grateful for the effort you have made. It has been fabulous to receive letters and communications from pupils and parents letting the teachers know how well they are doing in the current circumstances. Please keep it up!

I would like to outline plans to move towards reopening the school to certain year groups from 15th June. The Governing Body met last night, and after careful consideration of the risk assessment, have decided to reopen the school to more children. Which year groups are to be invited back to school will depend on the demand for key worker childcare, as these children take precedence over other year groups, as well as a clear indication from parents as to whether they definitely intend for their child(ren) to return this term.

To this end, you will receive a survey link today for you to complete by **12.00 noon on Monday 8th June**, to indicate if you would like your child(ren) to return to Castle Park School this term. This survey is for key worker childcare (any year group) or where your child is in one of the current eligible year groups (nursery, reception, Year 1 or Year 6).

To assist you with this decision, I will outline how the school will be organised for the rest of this term.

- Each child will be taught in a 'bubble' of no more than 15 children (and only 10-11 in most cases) in a classroom with a specific entrance and own toilets. This may be different to the classroom or building they are used to.
- Each bubble will be staffed by teachers and/or support staff who will only have contact with their own bubble all day and no contact with any other children. This may not be staff that the children have worked with before.
- Children will remain in their bubble group inside their classroom and they will not be permitted to mix with children from other bubbles. Each bubble will have their own designated outdoor space.
- There will be much handwashing throughout the day and children will be taught how to observe social distancing. However, social distancing cannot be guaranteed, especially with the youngest children, who will find it more difficult to apply it in their daily behaviours, but staff will do their best.
- Children will be directed into the school through a specific entrance and along a specific route and will be accompanied by one parent. Year 6 children may prefer to come by themselves as they might normally.
- Parents will not be permitted in any of the school buildings. Parents must observe social distancing whilst on site and must not 'gather' at the school entrances.
- Parents wishing to contact the school office must do this by telephone or email, not in person.
- Start and finish times will be staggered, and your child may start and finish school at a different time to 'normal'.
- Before and after school care will not be available for children other than those of keyworkers, and school will only be offering this from 8.30am-4.15pm as has been the case throughout lockdown. This is to enable cleaning to take place each day without children on the premises.



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- Children should attend school in their PE kit shorts/jogging bottoms and t-shirt, school sweatshirt and trainers (PE shoes) so that physical activity can be regularly accessed during the day without the need to get changed. Children should come to school in clean clothes each day. They should only bring a coat if they need one that day.
- All school meals will be in the form of a packed lunch, ordered through Lunchshop as usual. Children may bring their own packed lunch if they prefer. School packed lunches will be distributed to classroom bubbles and all children will eat in their classroom with the teacher, not in the hall (which will also be used for a class bubble).
- Children will only be able to bring a drink (in a named bottle) and their packed lunch (if they have one) to school each day. They will not be able to take reading books to and from school in the first instance, but we will look at how this might be facilitated in the coming weeks. Children should not bring toys or other items from home. Book bags and rucksacks should not be brought into school.
- If anyone in the home (including any children) has symptoms of COVID-19, the child(ren) from that household may not attend school until a negative test has been confirmed, or all family members have self-isolated for 14 days.
- If a child displays symptoms in school, parents will be notified to come and collect the child (and any siblings) **immediately** and self-isolate. If the child tests positive for COVID-19, they will self-isolate for 7 days (as instructed by Public Health England). Other household members will also self-isolate for 14 days. If the child tests negative, they may return to school, once their bubble has reopened, along with any other siblings. If the child is not tested, they must self-isolate for 14 days with other members of the family.
- All staff and children from the same bubble as a child displaying symptoms, will also go home as soon as possible and self-isolate for 14 days. If the child displaying symptoms tests negative for COVID-19, they can return to their bubble in school. Other bubble members and staff may also return.

I am sure that as you read this list of safety measures, you may have mixed emotions (as do the school staff), but please be reassured that whilst the school will look and feel different, these measures are to ensure we do everything to keep children, parents and staff as safe as possible. Staff will do everything they can to help children settle back into school and enjoy their learning. Castle Park children are very resilient and determined and I know they will adjust to the new 'normal' quickly and sensibly.

For those children who will not be returning, for whatever reason, I want you to be reassured that school will continue to support them at home with learning packs and contact where we can. We will continue to deliver Free School Meal vouchers and work packs to the homes of those children who are not attending school and offer telephone or email support, as has been the practice over the last weeks.

I am also aware that some children and parents may feel disconnected with school. Governors and staff have been discussing ways that more contact may be facilitated for pupils who are not attending. The staff are keen to maintain contact with their classes to support them however they can, and we are looking into if and how this can be achieved in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, please complete the questionnaire as soon as you can (by **noon on Monday 8th June at the latest**) so that we can continue to prepare to welcome back as many children as possible from 15th June. Please note that if you choose not to complete the survey, we will assume you do not wish your child to return to school this term.

With best wishes,

Mrs H F Richardson
Headteacher