



Sedbergh Drive, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 6BE  
Telephone (01539) 790440  
email: [admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk)  
website: [www.castleparkschool.org.uk](http://www.castleparkschool.org.uk)  
*Headteacher – Mrs H.F. Richardson*  
*Deputy Headteacher – Mr N. Stoker*

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### FULL RE-OPENING PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER

As we reach the last day of what has been a most unprecedented school year, I would like to update you with plans for the next phase of school re-opening to all pupils in September.

We have robust plans in place to welcome every child back to Castle Park in September. School may look a little different, as it has for children who have been able to return this term, but we will all be here, providing the best education for your child, as always.

School will be operating in full classes in department bubbles with staggered start and finish times, with some adjustments to curriculum and timetabling to facilitate the school's operational risk assessment and infection control measures. Before and After School Club (run by Castle Park staff and available for all children across the school) will be provided, but there will not be any other clubs in the first instance. Before and After School Club will be open from 7.45am and closes at 5.30pm and is chargeable (please ask the office for details). I will write to you again after 18<sup>th</sup> August with details of how the school re-opening will proceed, once the current national and local situation is confirmed and final guidance is received from the government.

### TRANSITION VISITS

Transition visits for pupils still learning at home, and for new children starting Castle Park in September, have taken place and it was wonderful to see everyone again. I hope the visits served to prepare and reassure your child, building in them the confidence that the staff are still here, teaching everyone as normal. Yes, the desks may be in a different arrangement, and the resources may be distributed individually, but the daily routines and expectations are just the same (with a lot of extra handwashing and cleaning included!)

### SCHOOL MEALS

Hot school meals service will resume in September with a one-week menu that we will trial for the first few weeks. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will eat in the hall and nursery in their classroom, as usual. KS2 pupils will eat in their classrooms. To facilitate this new arrangement, and to keep classrooms as clean as possible, meals will be served in compostable boxes in a grab bag with a fruit/salad bag and a dessert/bake. We have worked with the providers to ensure the new menu fully meets nutritional standards and contains fresh fruit and vegetables every day.

I hope you feel that the options present good value for money and that you will encourage your child to take up the offer of a school meal every day (which remains **free for every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**). If you pay for your child's school meals, the cost will be **£2.70** per day (or **£2.10** for a nursery meal). I have circulated the proposed menu with this letter, but you will be notified through LunchShop during the holidays regarding when the school meal ordering for September will be open (probably at the end of August).





If your personal circumstances have changed over the last few months and you think your child may be entitled to **Free School Meals** (even if your child already accesses a Universal Free School Meal because they are in Reception, Y1 or Y2), [please apply for this entitlement](#) for your child. If you are registered for Free School Meals (FSM), your child will receive extra funded support in school as well as other benefits that will last for 6 years after they have been registered for FSM.

Please search for Free School Meals on Cumbria County Council's website or look on the school website for more information. If you need any support with this, please email the school office.

If your child is already entitled to Free School Meals, you should have now received the 6-week voucher for the summer holiday period. If any parent is having difficulty providing food for their child during the summer, please contact the school office and we will put you in touch with agencies that can support you.

### LEARNING AT HOME AND CLASSDOJO

Parenting is challenging at the best of times, but recent events over the last months have certainly challenged these skills to their limits. As a school we wanted to thank you all once again for the magnificent way in which you rose to the challenge of continuing your child's education at home. It is so reassuring for the staff to know that when we re-open for all our pupils in September, the children will be ready to continue their education by being adaptable, positive, hardworking children, upholding the Castle Park Values and being ready to learn with their classmates once again.

I hope you have all enjoyed using ClassDojo with your child and have managed to access this platform successfully. Please note that ClassDojo will only be operational during term time and will be suspended during the school holiday period. Therefore, teachers will not be responding to messages after 4.00pm today. In September, new ClassDojo classes will be set up for the new school year and your child will move to their new school class automatically. Thank you for all the work and messages that you have posted. It has been wonderful for the school staff to keep in touch with their pupils through ClassDojo. I will still be able to post information and updates for you on the School Story section of ClassDojo, which I trust will remain helpful.

Some ideas for summer holiday activities for your child have also been posted on DropBox and ClassDojo for you to access if you wish.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

If you require any school uniform for the start of the new school year, please email Mrs Barrett in the school office [fbarrett@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:fbarrett@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk) and she will arrange this for you. School uniform will be available for collection from the school office on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September between 9.00am-3.00pm.

### END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

School closes for the summer holiday today but the school emails will be monitored periodically. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact the school through the office email [admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk) if you need any help or information during the summer holiday.

School re-opens on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and you will receive more information about the re-opening arrangements towards the end of the holiday.





## GOODBYE TO STAFF

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Elliot who has worked in UKS2 and across the school during the lockdown period. Most recently she has been working with children in the Kingfisher bubble. I am sure you would like to join us in thanking Mrs Elliot for her hard work during the last year at Castle Park and wishing her good luck for her new position at Staveley School.

## YEAR SIX LEAVERS

Year 6 leavers at school and at home enjoyed their Leavers' Assembly using the wonders of the internet yesterday. It still moved most of the staff to tears and raised lots of laughs as we saw the pictures of the children from years gone by. It is not the end to their school career that we had anticipated, but we have done as much as we can to make these last days special for them and a positive memory as part of their childhood. They are all ready to move on to their new secondary schools in September and we wish them all good luck for the future. We are very proud of each and every one of you and we hope you will always remember the wonderful learning journey that we had together at Castle Park School.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the families for whom this will be their last year at Castle Park. We very much appreciate the contribution you have made to our school community over many years and we will miss you very much. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your family and your child's educational journey – it has been a pleasure and an honour. Thank you too for all the gifts and special messages for the staff. It means a lot, especially when they cannot say goodbye in the way they would like to with the usual Leavers' BBQ. We wish you all health and happiness for the future.

And to all our families and children, the staff and governors would like to wish you all a good summer holiday. We hope you stay safe and well and that we all get to enjoy some summer sunshine.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs H F Richardson*  
Headteacher



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

