5 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to you as we are about to move into the next phase of pupils returning to school from Monday 8th March. As you know Castle School has been open throughout the lockdown period with increasing numbers of pupils attending as the community transmission rate has reduced over time.

All of you have now been contacted and we very much look forward to welcoming even more of our children and young people back into school from next week. You should all have been contacted by your child’s Teacher regarding the details around their start back – which for the majority is Monday 8th March.

We continue to make school as safe as possible and I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how we are doing this.

School Drop-off/School Pick-up

We continue to receive pupils from taxis/parents just outside the main doors, at the following times;

* **8.45 - 8.50 am** – Secondary Pupils drop-off
* **8.50 – 9.00 am** – Primary Pupils drop off

At the end of the day, please collect your child at the following times;

* **3.00 – 3.05 pm** – Primary Pupils pick up
* **3.10 – 3.15 pm** – Secondary Pupils pick up

As a staff team, we continue to work hard to ensure a safe environment for your children. We continue to maintain distance where we can, use PPE and face masks where needed and, of course, plenty of handwashing! Please note that no pupils will be required to wear face masks, but if they wish to do so in Secondary, that is fine (face masks are not recommended for Primary children).

In addition, staff are using Lateral Flow Tests twice a week at home and the majority of staff have had a Covid vaccination which was facilitated by Northumberland Local Authority.

We hope that all the above measures will continue to keep our school as safe as possible. Please remember though that if your child or anyone in your household shows any Covid symptoms – you must all stay at home until those with symptoms have been tested.

For those of you with Secondary age children, we will be able to offer home testing kits in the near future.  Although this is another measure that we can put in place, I am very aware that this test could also be very distressing to pupils, therefore it is not compulsory. However, if this is something you would be interested in following up, please do get in touch.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support as we look forward to the next step in our journey of getting our school all back together.

Yours sincerely

Sara Wild

Sara Wild - Principal