



Which years are starting and when?

The DfE guidance is that schools consider opening for reception, year 1 and year 6. They are seen as important transitional years and fundamental to children's development. We also have to offer continued support to key worker families, children who are deemed vulnerable (have social worker involvement)

What is a 'bubble'?

A bubble is a group of children and staff that is separate from others. As much as is possible, they will they mix with any other group, either collectively or individually. There will be no crossing of bubbles and maximal social distancing will be maintained at all times possible (with the exception of an unforeseen emergency). If Key Worker children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 need care on Wednesdays, we will do our utmost to keep them as separate groups within the 'Crisis Care Wednesday Bubble,' but if you have any flexibility with work you might like to take this arrangement into consideration.

What is the impact of a bubble?

It means that the number of people that come in to contact with each other is minimised and, should there be any concern about the spread of C19, we know who may have been in contact and we can provide appropriate support and guidance.

One of the issues, however, is that this means, wherever possible, staff members will cover one group. On the surface, this seems relatively straight forward. But, it can quickly become a complex jigsaw and it puts pressure on the number of staff we need.

How will you maintain a balance between social distancing and pupil well-being?

The bubbles themselves reduce the number of people that will be interacting with the children. But, we will also apply a number of measures in class to support this: promoting distancing between children; smaller groups; more time outside; careful allocation of toilets; allotted separate spaces for breaks and lunchtime; no access to communal areas in school (no whole school assemblies); minimal movement around corridors; development of one-way systems etc.

In school, we cannot apply the two metre distancing rules that are applied outside of school. Of course, when you are coming to and from school, this is possible and we ask you to adhere to the rules and guides rigidly. In school, we simply cannot expect children to meaningfully maintain a distance of two metres at all times and to suggest we can would be wrong. We will do everything we can to support the children at an appropriate distance and encourage the children to respect this rule. But, by sending your child to school, you recognise that this is not enforceable and there is increased risk of exposure. Teachers and staff will do all they can, including sending children home who are not able to follow their guidance, but it is fundamentally important that you know the DfE recognises this is not a rational expectation in a primary setting with very young children.

What else will you do?

If you would like to see greater detail in the actions taken by the school, the risk assessment is available on the website for you to consider. This has been ratified by our Governing Body.

What can parents do?

Please sign our new home to school agreement to show you are supporting us and each other. If a parent does not agree to abide by these rules, we will need to withdraw our offer of support for the safety and well-being of all.

We still aim to reduce the number of people attending the site: come alone if you can and don't bring any more children to school than is necessary **but do bring them if you have to. Do not leave children at home unattended.** Please leave as quickly as you can. Please reduce contact with any staff members as much as you can – I will still be on the gate but at a distance. Other staff will remain at their class doorways; please remain a suitable distance from them and send any messages electronically.

Which year groups can Castle Hill Primary School offer at this time?

We are able to support all of the groups above. Due to the number of pupils involved and the number of staff required to maintain 'bubbles', we ask you to work with us and allow us to risk assess our practice before more children in these year groups join. Another invitation to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 is planned to go out in three weeks' time if conditions allow us to do so.

Will my child have their class teacher?

In some instances they will. But, unfortunately, as we cannot cross bubbles, there will be some that do not have their class teacher. We have tried to offer balance by providing a staff member that is known to them, but it has not always been possible.

How will I know if my child has their teacher?

You have been informed which staff members are working in each bubble. We are a small friendly school and most of the children know all the teachers but you, might not. Please be assured that they will be waiting to greet you and your child on the first day so you can see who they will be working with.

Will my child be taught in their usual classroom?

In some instances they will. However, as we need to create bubbles and these cannot cross, there is a need to use additional classrooms in the school that are not their usual class. Each of these rooms will have been prepared to support the children to the best of our ability. We have done all we can to distribute the children around school in the safest and best way possible to support them. The greatest impact is for Year 1. This means that Year 1 children will be using the Key Stage 2 entrance and the Year 3 classrooms.

How do I prepare my child to return?

Talk with your child and explain that school is going to be a little bit different when they come back. But, we are still the same school – this is just a short time of change and we hope to return to normal very soon.

What should my child wear?

Children should wear clean uniform each day. When they get home, they should change and put their clothes in the wash if you can. They should also have a shower / bath to make sure they are clean. They can wear trainers because we want to make the best use of outside.

What happens at lunchtime?

The children will either eat in their classrooms at a socially acceptable distance or outside if the weather is fine. Children in reception and year 1 will be provided with a free school packed lunch as part of the universal free school meals provision. Others should bring their own packed lunch in to school. All children should bring their own named drinks bottle. If children in receipt of free-school meals still receive their hampers each fortnight, parents are required to provide a packed lunch from these hampers. **No food will be prepared on site.** The children will be given time to play on the field or playground in their own designated space to maintain the bubble. Only staff assigned to the bubble will be there to support them unless there is an emergency.

What happens at playtime?

The children will be given time to play on the field or playground in their own designated space to maintain the bubble. Only staff assigned to the bubble will be there to support them unless there is an emergency.

What can my child bring to school?

They should bring as little as possible in from home. A small bag containing:- their pencil case, lunchbox, water bottle and a snack for breaktime. They will need to bring a coat if the weather is unpleasant. They should bring nothing else – this will be provided by the school and will remain on site in their own designated space. They must not bring in any other items from home – such as toys, games or cards. No reading books will go home.

Can you offer wrap around care?

We hope you understand from these necessary arrangements that we do not have sufficient staff or space to run other groups.

Why is Castle Hill closed on Wednesdays?

We want to ensure everybody is kept safe. This means a deep clean mid-week is invaluable. Also, all teachers will be teaching throughout the week in school. They still need to support the children working from home. This will give teachers the opportunity to do this. The TAs from each bubble will care for the Key Workers from their bubble within the 'Crisis Care Bubble!'