



The **BROADCAST**

Newsletter : Spring Term - Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents

We are overwhelmed by your positivity and the support you have shown school staff. We recognise also that you as parents are faced with a difficult time and the more we can support each other the better. Remember, mental health and safety is paramount. We are all much more aware of people we know suffering from Covid and whilst we try and organise our lives we can't forget the tragic statistics that 1 in 50 of the population now has this incredibly contagious virus that if we are not careful could spread through our community and force us to close to those vulnerable children and critical workers. Whatever we are faced with please be absolutely assured that your child is the most precious, important part of everything we do and decisions we take.

Springtime Learning

We are a one form entry school with one teacher in each year group who is willing to provide both home learning whilst educating children of critical care workers and vulnerable children in school. It is our intention that the service we provide to both is of the quality we can be proud of. But, please be patient and understanding to what a big ask this is of us all with very little timely, realistic guidance from the government. We have the benefits of collating your views from previous lockdowns and overwhelmingly parents expressed that they preferred workbooks so that they were not reliant on technology and could also preplan. Therefore you will be delighted that we have invested in this method for home learning and we appreciate how promptly you came to pick up your child's books from school on Tuesday.

During this 3rd Lockdown we know you all have your own pressures and stresses to deal with. Please prioritise your family well-being.

Let's start the community spirit and inject some feel good factor into Castle Hill. We are lucky to have railings outside both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 entrances. On your daily walk we invite you to tie a ribbon from any colour in the rainbow around the railings with a message of support to those that you cannot see.

Please see attached a summary of the remote learning offer from Castle Hill Primary School.

Every Monday the teacher will publish a weekly timetable for you to follow. This provides the number of hours the government are anticipating parents can expect their child to be home learning. This is huge ask put upon you so we have tried to make it as simple as possible. Therefore, there is a combination of workbook, lessons picked from Oak National Academy, PAWS activities, topic suggestions to follow as well as a title for Big Write every week.

For this lockdown we are introducing a way of providing an opportunity for your child to 'see' their teacher every week through a virtual platform. In your pack are details how to log on to Google Classroom. Every week, the teacher will send you a time when your child can log on for a session of chat and check on your well-being. These will be at different times so that if you only have one device your child is still able to access this opportunity. Details of time will be posted on your child's Seesaw page as this will continue to be our main line of communication with you and your family.

Every week in the newsletter we will also post a list of good recommended sites we hear about for extension to what the school is providing. For example, from Monday CBBC are offering 3 hours of homeschooling each day.

We will be using Seesaw once again as our main means of communication with you and your family during lockdown. Please ensure you are familiar with our remote learning policy which can be found on our website.

This Monday, we will be publishing a new PAWS sheet and a topic web for the forthcoming term on Seesaw.

Every subsequent Monday, teachers will provide a weekly timetable overview with links to appropriate lessons on Oak National Academy. Your children have all been taught how to access this online tool.

BIG WRITE TITLE - 'My New Year Hopes and Dreams'

Year 6 will be following a separate timetable in order to help get them 'secondary ready'.

It is expected that workbooks for Maths and English will be used over the next six weeks, but if your child completes a workbook then it is expected that they would go to Oak National Academy and look for lessons under the appropriate year group.

Teachers will be monitoring the completion of the workbooks and the packs will be collected in for this purpose on the following days:

YR - Tuesday 2nd February

Y1 - Thursday 4th February

Y2 - Monday 1st February

Y3 - Monday 1st February

Y4 - Tuesday 2nd February

Y5 - Wednesday 3rd February

Y6 - Monday 1st February

Children who will be attending school **MUST** bring their work-packs with them each day as we will be following the same timetable as those children who are having to learn remotely.

We will do our best to support you through this period as the government has insisted that home learning is completed to ensure children do not fall behind with their education.

We will endeavour to make calls home to check on the welfare of you and your family.

We appreciate the difficult role you are being asked to play and will support you in all the ways that we can.

Google Classroom

You will have received login details for your child to access Google Classroom. This is new to us all. We will be increasing the use we make of it as the weeks go by once we are confident that all your children are in a position to have access to it.

Step 1: A chat with your teacher

Your teacher will let you know through SeeSaw a time when they are going to be on Google Classroom in a virtual classroom for your child to join. If your child logs on at this given time they can meet with their teacher for a 10 min session in the first instance.

In the future we will be able to use Google Classroom to upload more work and activities for your child to enjoy. Did you know that if your child has not got access to a laptop Google Classroom can be accessed through any tablet, a playstation, Xbox or mobile phone?