



2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Return to school – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Happy New Year to all of our families and we look forward to welcoming you back to school as expected next week.

We are aware of growing anxiety from parents following the announcement on 30<sup>th</sup> December by the Secretary of State for Education, that BCP is now in Tier 4. Following Government Guidance all primary schools in BCP will open next week – CTK pupils are all due to return on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January as expected.

If your child was regarded as clinically extremely vulnerable and did not attend school as a result in November, they will be offered the opportunity to learn from home again whilst BCP is in Tier 4.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school in all local restriction tiers.

**Travelling** for education is allowed across borders between tiers and both staff and pupils may do so for that purpose only.

Please can all families continue to minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school. Please ensure that pupils do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days. These essential actions will reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

### **School safety**

Schools must comply with health and safety law, our Covid-19 Risk Assessment is regularly reviewed in light of any changes to tier restrictions and Government directives.

### **Essential measures include:**

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning and ventilation arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace

Whilst BCP is in Tier 4, all pupils will remain in separate class bubbles, maintaining separate break and lunch times.

Pupils will continue to have forward facing desks in all rooms. Children who are old enough, will also be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible. This will not be possible for the youngest children and some children with complex needs - doing this some of the time, will help.

Staff will continue to wear face coverings at all times in school (clear visor / mask) unless they are exempt and all parents are requested to wear a face mask on site unless exempt.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

Teachers and other staff to be sensitive to the above needs.

Pathways on/ off school site will both remain open, however, we continue to expect all persons to walk on the left in single file only.

Enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, and regular cleaning of toilet facilities will continue.

All occupied spaces will be well ventilated. **Natural ventilation** – opening windows (in cooler weather windows will be opened just enough to provide constant background ventilation, and opened more fully during breaks to purge the air in the space). Opening internal doors also assists with creating a throughput of air (as long as they are not fire doors).

Please continue to send your child into school with **additional layers of clothing** – an under vest, an additional fleece or jumper to wear over their uniform, and a warm outdoor coat, hat and gloves. Please name all items. Heating will be used as necessary to ensure comfort levels are maintained particularly in occupied spaces.

Staff may move between classes where necessary and **supply teachers, peripatetic teachers** can still teach in school. They will ensure they minimise contact and maintain as much distance as possible from other staff.

### **What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19**

The whole household should stay at home and anyone showing symptoms should book a test immediately.

Please inform them immediately of the results of a test and follow this guidance.

1. If someone with symptoms tests negative for coronavirus (COVID-19), then they should stay at home until they are recovered as usual from their illness but can safely return thereafter. The only exception to return following a negative test result is where an individual is separately identified as a close contact of a confirmed case, when they will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of that contact.

2. If someone with symptoms tests positive, they should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should continue to self-isolate until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should all self-isolate for the full 10 days from the day after the individual tested positive.

Please inform the school if your child is symptomatic, needs to self-isolate and the outcome of any COVID-19 tests on our COVID email: [covid@ctkcps.com](mailto:covid@ctkcps.com)

### **Prepare Your Child**

Please help to prepare your child for their return to school by practising hand washing and 'catch it, bin it, kill it' for sneezes. Please also talk to your child about trying to keep a distance and not touching adults or other children in school.

Once again, we find ourselves facing uncertain and challenging times, but I am confident that we can navigate through these next few months provided we all continue to work together. Our mission statement of living our lives in 'faith, hope and love' keeps us focused on what matters most.

God Bless

Clare Tickel

Headteacher