



07 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I wish you a Happy New Year and sincerely hope it is one that will only get better!

Starting school in such difficult circumstances I am sure has been tough for all of us. Our biggest frustration at Broadstone First and Middle Schools has been the issue of uncertainty. It was a year ago when schools returned to school for a day and were then promptly sent home for remote education and there has been a lot of talk again about this possibility, especially given the current rates of infection. This constant state of not knowing and having to respond quickly to situations is an added worry and stress to our lives. I wanted to write to you to let you know our intention for our schools in the hope that it will reassure you of our 'stance' in the coming months.

Schools have been asked to plan for staff absences of around 25%. We have looked and planned for absences of up to 50%. Unless we are directed to remote education by the government (lockdown), which I think is unlikely, our approach (and its implications) are as follows.

It is our intention that we will remain **open at all times** including before and after school provision.

This means

- Your child gets to see their peers, friends and staff every day
- Pupils remain in a routine which has so many benefits
- You will not have to change work or childcare arrangements

The implications are

- Pupils may need to be put into larger groups
- Pupils may be mixing with other year groups
- Pupils might not get a full day of their usual timetable with their usual teacher
- In cases of extreme absence, they may have little taught content in the day

The support we need

- Please remain vigilant of the signs of COVID and DO NOT send your child in if you suspect they may be ill
- Please test regularly as adults and also for children if they are willing and able to do so

As staffing absences are so unpredictable we have tried to plan in 3 levels of provision. **We are currently at level 1** and will let you know by text if that level changes so that you are aware of the school situation.

Level 1 – Manageable absences. Provision running as planned – no significant disruption to learning but there may be some changes to the adult teaching the class.

Level 2 – High absence. Provision may include joined class work and disruption to planned curriculum.

Level 3 – Significant absence. Planned provision will be disrupted, multiple groups may be together and/or planned lessons may not be delivered.

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BFS Online Provision

There will be online provision for any pupil isolating. You need to make a judgement as a family how much or little you access depending on your individual situation. Online provision is only intended for short term absences as we expect everyone to be in school.

Our online provision offer will be as follows. This will be in place EVERY DAY starting Monday 10 January 2022:

- 8.40am – 9am **Ready Set GO** with Miss Burke (all year groups)
- 12pm - 12.30pm **Live Read** with Mrs Lee (all year groups). This will be a different story every day
- Weekly overview - this is where all of the information for the week's work can be found. This can be accessed via Google Classrooms
- Learning / Technical Support – if you need any help throughout the day you can contact us via googleclassroom@castlemanacademytrust.co.uk. Someone will regularly check this and get back to you with help.
- Support - call us at school if you have a problem and we will get back to you as soon as we can, our contact number is 01202 694376

In addition, we will call you to see how you and your family are and if there is anything we can do to support you.

Any feedback would be greatly appreciated. Once again, I want to thank you for your continued support and hope you stay safe and well.

Kind regards



Dawn Wilks
Executive Headteacher