

CASTLE HILL Academy

A PLATANOS  TRUST SCHOOL

Newsletter

2nd October 2026

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

ATTITUDE DETERMINES ALTITUDE

A very warm welcome back to Castle Hill Academy for the new academic year 2026-2027. It has been wonderful to see all our pupils return this September, whether they are settling back into a familiar classroom or joining us for the very first time. Everyone has come back with real enthusiasm, and we cannot wait to see all that they will achieve this year.

- We are confident that this will be another productive and exciting year, built on the strong partnership between yourselves and the school.
- This follows another very successful year for Castle Hill Academy, and we are proud to build on that momentum.
- Pupils have settled into their new classes quickly and have shown fantastic enthusiasm and excellent behaviour for learning.

Warm regards,

The Castle Hill Academy Team

KEY DATES – AUTUMN TERM 2026

Event	Date
Harvest Festival	Friday 2 October
Phonics Parent Workshop	Wednesday 7 October
Space Week (Rocket Revolution)	Monday 5 – Friday 9 October
Year 6 KS2 SATs Parent Information Workshop	Thursday 8 October, 9.15–10.15
Virtual Oak Settling-In Workshop	Wednesday 14 October (Zoom)
Year 4 Roman Workshop	Thursday 15 October
Parents' Evenings	w/c Monday 12 October
CHABOP Day & Break Up for Half Term	Friday 23 October

FIRST WEEK BACK AT SCHOOL

It has been a joy to welcome everyone back to Castle Hill Academy. Here's a flavour of what our first days back have looked like across the school – and what our pupils have been saying about being back.



"I was so excited to see my friends again – I can't wait to find out what we're learning this term!"

– Year 3 pupil





"Coming back to school makes me happy because everyone was so pleased to see each other again."

– Year 6 pupil



COME ALONG – PARENT WORKSHOPS THIS TERM

We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for one of our workshops this term. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to find out more about how your child is learning, to ask questions, and to connect with staff and other families.

Workshop	When
Oak Settling-In Parent Morning	Wednesday 30 September, 9.00am
Virtual Oak Settling-In Workshop (via Zoom)	Monday 5 October, 2.00 pm
Phonics Parent Workshop	Wednesday 7 October, 9.15am
Year 6 KS2 SATs Parent Information Workshop	Thursday 8 October, 9.15am

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible – your involvement makes a real difference to your child's start to the year.

-  **Find out more** about how your child is learning
-  **Ask questions** and share your thoughts
-  **Meet and connect** with staff and other families
-  **Pick up helpful tips** to support your child at home

There is no need to book – simply come along!

Oak Settling-In Parent Morning

Wednesday 30 September | 9.00am

A chance for Oak parents and carers to meet with staff, find out how your child is settling into the new school year and learn more about life in Oak.

 **Come along, meet the team and share your experiences.**

Virtual Oak Settling-In Workshop

Monday 5 October | Via Zoom | 2.00pm

Can't make it into school? Join us online for our Oak Settling-In Workshop.

 **Connect with us from home and find out how your child is settling in.**

Phonics Parent Workshop

Wednesday 7 October

Find out how we teach phonics at Castle Hill Academy and discover some simple ways you can support your child with reading and phonics at home.

 **Come and learn how we make reading a success!**

Year 6 KS2 SATs Parent Information Workshop

Thursday 8 October | 9.15–10.15am

An opportunity for Year 6 parents and carers to find out more about the KS2 SATs, what to expect and how you can support your child as they prepare.

★ **Everything you need to know about SATs in one session.**

We'd Love to See You!

Your involvement makes a **real difference to your child's experience and success at school.**

Whether you're joining us for a workshop, having a chat over a cup of tea or finding out more about your child's learning, **we are always delighted to see you.**

Come along, ask questions and be part of our school community! ☀



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every day in school counts. Even small amounts of absence add up over the year and can affect your child's learning, confidence and friendships. As we start the new academic year, we're asking all families to help us make this our best year yet for attendance by making sure children are in school, on time, every day.

The table below shows how a small number of absences can quickly bring attendance down – and why we ask you to let us know as early as possible about any planned or unavoidable absence.

Attendance	What this means	Equates to
100%	Perfection	0 days off
98%	Impressive	4 days off each year
96%	Good	7 days off each year
95%	Nearly there	9 days off each year
94%	Needs to improve	11 days off each year
90%	Concerns (Educational Welfare referral)	20 days off each year
85%	Serious concerns	30 days off each year

- Aim for 100% – and let the office know before 9.00am if your child is unwell.
- Try to book medical and dental appointments outside of school hours where possible.
- Holidays in term time cannot be authorised and may result in a penalty notice.
- If attendance is a struggle for any reason, please speak to your child's class teacher or the office – we're here to help.

Deciding whether to send your child to school when they're unwell isn't always easy. This guide is here to help – please always use your judgement, and contact the school office if you're ever unsure.

 KEEP THEM OFF SCHOOL	 OK TO SEND THEM IN
• A temperature of 38°C or higher • Vomiting or diarrhoea – stay off for 48 hours after the last episode • A contagious illness such as chickenpox, measles, mumps or scarlet fever (see table) • Too unwell to take part in the school day – tired, in pain, or unable to concentrate	• A mild cold, runny nose or occasional cough with no fever • Feeling a little tired but otherwise able to join in • A headache or minor ache that has settled • A rash from a condition that is no longer contagious (e.g. slapped cheek once the rash appears)

- Advised to isolate by a GP or health professional

- Recovering and it has been 48 hours since their last bout of sickness/diarrhoea

Illness-by-Illness Guide

Illness / Symptom	Action	Guidance
Chickenpox	Keep off	Until all spots have crusted over (usually about 5 days after they appear).
Cold or mild cough (no fever)	Send in	No need to keep off school if your child is otherwise well.
Conjunctivitis	Send in	No need to keep off school; keep hands and towels/flannels separate.
COVID-19 / flu-like illness	Keep off	Keep off while feverish; return once temperature is normal and they feel well.
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	Keep off	48 hours from the last episode.
Ear infection	Send in	No need to keep off unless your child has a high temperature or is in pain.
Fifth disease / slapped cheek	Send in	No longer infectious once the rash appears.
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Send in	No need to keep off if your child feels well enough to attend.
Head lice	Send in	No need to keep off school; treat as soon as you notice them.
High temperature (38°C+)	Keep off	Until the temperature returns to normal without medicine.
Impetigo	Keep off	Until sores have crusted/healed, or for 48 hours after starting antibiotics.
Measles	Keep off	For 4 days from when the rash first appears – please also call the school.
Mumps	Keep off	For 5 days after the glands start to swell.
Ringworm	Send in	Treatment needed, but no need to keep off school.
Scarlet fever	Keep off	Until 24 hours after starting antibiotics – please also call the school.

Illness / Symptom	Action	Guidance
Sore throat	Send in	No need to keep off unless accompanied by a high temperature.
Threadworms	Send in	No need to keep off school; treatment is recommended.
Whooping cough	Keep off	For 48 hours after starting antibiotics, or 21 days from onset if untreated – please also call the school.

A Few Reminders

- Please call the school office before 9.00am on each day of absence, and let us know the reason.
- If in doubt, a short phone call to the office or your GP surgery can help you decide.
- Try to book routine medical and dental appointments outside of the school day where possible.
- For illnesses requiring antibiotics, please let us know so we can support your child's return.
- *This guide follows general NHS start-of-illness guidance and is not a substitute for medical advice – always contact your GP or NHS 111 if you're concerned about your child's health.*

KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

Pupils have had an assembly about ways to keep safe online. They have learnt the importance of keeping their log-in details safe, not sharing personal information, and reporting any concerns to a trusted adult. We will continue to educate our pupils about staying safe online as part of our safeguarding duty.

Helpful resources for parents and carers:

- Childnet – parent and carer resources: childnet.com/parents-and-carers
- UK Safer Internet Centre – advice, tips and guides: saferinternet.org.uk
- Family Gaming Database – game content advice: familygamingdatabase.com
- Common Sense Media – age-appropriate reviews: commonsensemedia.org
- Internet Matters – parental controls guidance: internetmatters.org/parental-controls

Making a report:

- Report Harmful Content: reportharmfulcontent.com
- CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection): ceop.police.uk
- Internet Watch Foundation: iwf.org.uk

Get help and support:

- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 – nspcc.org.uk
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222 – familylives.org.uk
- Young Minds: 0808 802 5544 – youngminds.org.uk
- Childline (for under 18s): 0800 1111 – childline.org.uk
- The Mix (for 13–25 year olds): themix.org.uk

Stay Safe Online!

Small steps make a big difference!

The internet is a great place to learn, explore and have fun – but it's important to stay safe and make good choices online.



Keep your personal information private

- Don't share your full name, address, school, phone number or details about where you live.
- Be careful about what you post, even if it feels harmless.



Use strong passwords

- Choose passwords that are hard to guess (a mix of letters, numbers and symbols).
- Don't share your passwords with anyone, even friends.



Think before you post

- Only share things you would be happy for others to see.
- Be kind and respectful online – what you post can be permanent.



Be wary of unknown messages

- Don't reply to messages from people you don't know.
- Watch out for fake profiles and scams (even if they seem friendly).



Check what you click

- Don't click on suspicious links or pop-ups.
- Make sure websites are safe (look for the padlock symbol and "https" in the web address).



If something upsets you...

- Tell a trusted adult straight away – at home or at school.
- Don't reply, forward or share hurtful messages.
- Remember, you are not alone and there is always someone who can help.



Be kind, be careful, be in control.

If you ever feel unsure, worried or see something that doesn't seem right, talk to a parent, carer or a member of school staff.



THINK • CHECK • STAY SAFE



Children's Wellbeing Practitioners (CWP)

Feeling sad or irritable?

Worrying a lot about things you can't control?

Finding it hard to enjoy the things you used to do?

Is anxiety stopping you from doing what you want?

At CDI we offer short term support for children and young people experiencing mild to moderate anxiety and low mood
&
Work with parents and carers of younger children (aged 11 and under) with behavioural difficulties and anxiety.



**You Talk,
We Listen**
Croydon Drop In

How we can help:



Support for ages 12-18

Email subject: CWP-CYP

- 1:1 sessions for anxiety
- 1:1 sessions for low mood
- Group wellbeing sessions



Support for parents and carers

Email subject: CWP-PARENT

- 1:1 parent support
- Strategies to help manage your child's anxiety (ages 5-11)
- Support with managing your child's behaviour (ages 2-10)



Community support

Email subject: CWP-COMMUNITY

- Workshops for staff or parents/carers
- Helping you understand common behavioural difficulties
- Delivered in community settings

What support looks like:

- Guided self help to build your confidence in managing difficulties
- 6-8 sessions, with flexibility depending on need
- A safe and confidential space to talk
- Short waiting time for referrals

For more information or to make a referral, contact: enquiries@croydondropin.org.uk - please include the code listed under your chosen support option in the email subject

**Free
with
Refreshments!**

FEELING OVERWHELMED?

Parenting can be hard



JOIN US FOR OUR 12-WEEK INCREDIBLE YEARS PARENTING PROGRAMME

An adults only support group for parents of children aged 6-11, focusing on building a nurturing and positive relationship with your child while learning to manage challenging behaviours.

Topics Include

- How to encourage children's language social and emotional development
- Establishing clear and predictable routines
- Use positive strategies to manage behaviour that challenges
- Developing a child's problem solving skills

**Starting May on
Wednesdays**

**132 Church St, Croydon
CR0 1RF**

Contact: enquiries@croydondropin.org.uk

Phone: [020 8680 0404](tel:02086800404)

TIMESTABLES

We are continuing our drive with maths and times tables across the school.

- The Year 4 Multiplications Check is a **compulsory online test carried out nationally** for all Year 4 pupils. **This will be held in June 2027** and is to assess whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently.
- Knowing the multiplication tables allows pupils to develop further maths and problem-solving skills.

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

- To help your child further with the times tables, remind them to use **Times Tables Rockstars** at (<https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>).
- The mobile app is also available on Amazon, Android and Apple. **Children can login using their same login details.**



READING RECORDS

Our pupils enjoy reading and there are many opportunities for pupils to read while at school. Pupils enjoy the library sessions each week. Reading every day helps pupils to understand their learning.

Start of term reminders:

- Pupils will continue to bring their **Reading Records** and a reading book home every day.
- We kindly ask that parents (or those pupils with an older sibling) **sign the Reading Record daily** when you listen to the child read.
- Pupils are required to **bring their Reading Record back to school each day** with their book. Our teachers are checking the Reading Records daily.

Demerits for unsigned Reading Records if this is frequent.

- A reminder letter will be sent home each week and demerits will be given to pupils whose Reading Records are not signed on more than one day each week.
- Please do not hesitate to contact the school if there are any questions.

UNIFORM REMINDER

As a reminder for the beginning of the term, please be reminded of the school uniform:

- School jumper/cardigan/school fleece
- Grey skirt/trousers/pinafore dress
- White polo shirt
- Black shoes

Please note that hoodies (in any colour) are not part of the school uniform.

On PE days, pupils can come to school wearing their PE kit, which consists of:

- Dark jogging bottoms/shorts
- White t-shirt
- Dark trainers

Due to the unpredictable weather at the beginning of term, pupils should bring their jumper/cardigan or a coat.

PE DAYS

A reminder that the PE days for our different classes are as below. On their PE day only, pupils can come to school wearing their PE kit.

Event	Date
Nursery	Tuesday (AM) and Tuesday(PM)
Reception	Tuesday
Year 1	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 2	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 3	Monday and Wednesday
Year 4	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 5	Wednesday and Friday
Year 6	Friday
Robins	Tuesday
Sparrows	Friday
Magpies	Friday
Owls	Friday
Kites	Friday
Doves	Friday

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT

Mental health support is very important when one is experiencing challenging times. This can occur at any time, whether during term time or the holiday periods.

We are taking this opportunity to provide a reminder that our provider, Place2Be, have a free 24/7 text service that provides confidential support.



Need urgent help?

Can't cope?

Get free, confidential support in a crisis 24/7. **Text P2B to 85258**

 FAQs answered at place2be.org.uk/text

shout
85258
here for you 24/7

FREE PARENT WORKSHOPS IN CROYDON

Kids Disabled children
say we can

While You Wait: Support for Parents in Croydon Understanding and Supporting Children Awaiting ADHD Assessment

What is this workshop about?
Waiting for an ADHD
assessment? Don't wait for
support.

Join us to learn:

- Your SEND rights and how Croydon SENDIAS can help.
- Support schools should provide before a diagnosis.
- EHCP or not? When to consider an EHC needs assessment.
- Where to find support for you and your family.

Leave with practical information,
greater confidence, and clear
next steps to support your child..

ADHD

**15th September
10.30 - 12.30pm**

**13th October
12.30pm - 15.30pm**

You don't have to wait for
a diagnosis to start
making a difference.

**Booking is essential.
Book here:**



**Where: Carers Information Service,
24 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1PB**



CROYDON SENDIAS SERVICE
SEND DROP-IN SESSIONS
Time: 4 PM to 5 PM

Where: Legacy, Croydon Youth Zone

**125 Whitehorse Road, Croydon,
CR0 2LG**

Come and have a chat with us about:

- Requesting EHC needs assessment,
- Understanding the EHCP process,
- Annual EHCP review process,
- Appealing LA's decisions,
- Discussions and meetings with the school/Local Authority on SEND matters.

**Dates of the following
sessions in 2026**

- 16th September
- 14th October
- 11th November
- 09th December

For more information, contact:

Email: Croydon@kids.org.uk

Phone: +44 20 8152 4558

Website: www.kids.org.uk

Facebook: Croydon SENDIASS

Drop-in sessions
Selhurst Children Centre

23 Dagnall Park, London SE25 5PL
10 am to 12 noon

17th September, 22nd October, 26th November

**Legal, impartial, and confidential advice is
available on the following topics:**

- Requesting an EHC needs assessment
- Understanding the EHCP process
- The annual EHCP review process
- Appealing a local authority's decision to the SEND Tribunal

 Croydon@kids.org.uk

 020 8152 4558

 Croydon SENDIASS

 www.kids.org.uk

KidsDisabled children
say we can**CROYDON SENDIAS
SERVICE****FACE to FACE
DROP-IN SESSIONS ON
TUESDAYS
10 am to 12noon
Term time only**

- 08th 15th 22nd 29th September
- 06th 13th 20st October
- 03th 10th 17th 24th November
- 01nd 08th 15th December

Address: 24 George Street, CR0 1PB

Legal, impartial, and confidential
advice is available on the
following topics:

- Requesting an EHC needs
assessment
- Understanding the EHCP process
- The annual EHCP review process
- Appealing a local authority's
decision to the SEND Tribunal
- Attending discussions and meetings
with the school and/or local authority.

www.kids.org.uk

Croydon SENDIAS Service
offers independent, impartial,
confidential, and free legal
advice and support to young
people and to families with
children or young people who
have Special Educational
Needs and/or Disabilities
(SEND).



Croydon@kids.org.uk
[www.kids.org.uk/sendias/
services/croydon-sendias/](http://www.kids.org.uk/sendias/services/croydon-sendias/)



020 8152 4558



[www.facebook.com/Croydon
Sendias](https://www.facebook.com/CroydonSendias)

**Does my child need an EHCP**

Workshop for parents, carers and young people
Carers Information Service, 24 George Street, Croydon, CR0 1PB
8 th October 10 -12 noon

We will explore the following:

Understanding EHCPs – what they are and who may need
one

Support in school – understanding SEN Support and what
schools should provide



Scan QR code to secure your FREE space

Delivered by: **Croydon SENDIAS Service**



Croydon@kids.org.uk



020 8152 4558



Croydon SENDIAS

KidsDisabled children
say we can

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

All time off school equates to missed learning time. Please make sure your child is in school every day. Thank you.

Attendance Ladder



CASTLE HILL

Academy

A PLATANOS  TRUST SCHOOL

Attitude Determines Altitude