

Edukos Trust

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Mr Chris Huscroft
Chief Executive Officer

6th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Along with your child's Head Teacher and their colleagues, we do hope that the summer break allowed you all the chance to recuperate and enjoy time with your extended families.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and your children back to our schools for the academic year 2021 – 2022. We really do look forward to welcoming your children back into our schools this week and I am certain, like us, they are full of anticipation for the year ahead.

I also felt it was important to share with you, information that we have about how schools will operate from your child's first day back.

Guidance is now very clear that schools should operate with a 'business as usual' approach from the start of the new academic year. We are of course delighted to be given this green light to begin the school year in much the same way that we have pre-pandemic. During the summer break, the head teachers have attended updates from the East Riding of Yorkshire's Public Health Team, so that they can be fully apprised of the local situation, as well as the national. During the updates, however, it was clear to all that the rate of infection locally remains high.

We therefore felt it useful to remind you that whilst most restrictions have been lifted, vigilance around the basic preventative methods should remain high and part of your daily routines. Our Risk Assessments, completed during the summer break, detail how we will be maintaining some of the routines we had in place during the last academic year *i.e. handwashing, sanitising and good ventilation*. In addition to this, our staff will still be undertaking regular testing to help prevent the spread of the virus within our schools. Your child's head teacher will no doubt write out to you in the next few days with some school specific details about how they are planning to operate within their school.

Whilst we understand that testing (using Lateral Flow Devices) isn't compulsory, we felt it was worth mentioning that by taking regular tests, those with the virus who are not displaying symptoms can be detected. Regular testing (and therefore detection) will keep the rate of infection down and allow us to keep our schools operating as normally as possible. During the local update presentation, we were informed that should 5 or more connected cases be present in one of our schools, that school may be forced to go back to the 'bubble system' we previously used. This would mean that any subsequent positive cases could require the whole bubble to self-isolate – we really do hope to avoid this level of disruption to education for our children. Therefore, if you do feel able to test your children, this would greatly help the cause of reducing the impact of the virus.

So, to end on a slightly more upbeat note! Over the next few days, staff in our schools will be working to ensure that they have enabled all children within their new classes to access online learning. Should children need to isolate, we will endeavour to provide learning, where practicably possible to these children via SeeSaw and Teams. There is quite significant work needed to set this up for a new academic year and therefore ask for your patience and support whilst this happens. Log in details which you were provided with last year for

Teams will still be valid, so please hold on to this. Any further information that you might need will be sent out to you as soon as possible.

All that is left for me to say now is, I do hope that you all have a wonderful start to the new academic year and we are all hoping for a year that will allow many of the wonderful things that we have had to postpone over the past 2 academic years will be able to take place.

I look forward to working with you all in the 2021–2022 academic year.

Thank you for your continuing support, now and in the future.

Your sincerely

Chris Huscroft
CEO