

Dear parents and carers,

I want to wish you a warm welcome back to school and to what we hope will be the most 'normal' term we have had in a long time. It is our hope to build on all the good work we did last year and continue to find new ways to inspire children and build lasting memories.

As you will be aware, a lot of the government restrictions around social distancing in schools have been lifted including the bubble system which we welcome. I do, however, wish to make you aware of some of the specific ways in which our schools will be operating to ensure we can keep our children, their families and our staff safe.

If a member of staff or child tests positive there is now no requirement for us to inform anybody under the new guidance, unless there is a developing trend or chance of outbreak. As much as we aim to follow this, we believe there may be some specific situations in which parents should be informed and we will risk assess each situation to decide. For example, if a positive case has been in close contact with children who are classed as vulnerable or who have family members in a similar situation, we would look to inform them. Another example is if the children have been, or are due to, go on a trip or residential visit, we would risk assess the situation and act accordingly.

Also, if a child or member of staff has symptoms they are still legally required to isolate and seek a PCR test. If they are a close contact of a positive case and require a PCR, they could still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others and we would therefore recommend that they remain off school until they get the result. This is in line with this [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#).

Attendance in school is still a major priority for both us and the government and we will do our best to ensure that children are in school. If there is ever a reason outside of this described above, or a family situation that we are unaware of, please let us know so we can work with you to take the best course of action.

We are also taking this opportunity to remind all staff and parents that **Lateral Flow Device testing is for asymptomatic cases only**. Anyone with symptoms, however mild, must self-isolate and seek a PCR test at the earliest opportunity. Members of their household are also encouraged to take a PCR test.

We have endeavoured to take a common-sense approach that will minimise disruption whilst protecting families. Morally, we feel this is the correct approach and we know that the majority of parents would agree with these procedures and support us in keeping each other safe.

Kind regards



Mr Gary Evans
Chief Executive Officer
The Blue Kite Academy Trust