

Dear Parents and Carers

The start of a new school year is always daunting. For pupils and their parents it could be a brand new school, or a brand new teacher or class. This will be the same for each and every adult too – even after twenty years of teaching, it still hasn't gone away for me: I still get nervous on the first day. Each one brings a new set of challenges, a new set of rules and it takes us time to find our feet with the new way of working. If we're lucky, our friends come with us and provide a sense of familiarity, sometimes we will see adults we know well and remember how they taught us, kept us safe and made us laugh. Once the fear of returning to school has passed (usually by 9:30) we remember all the good things that being in school brings: We remember the friendships and fun, the learning and the structure, which bring order to our lives and we remember the opportunities we have and quite quickly school life kicks back into place. By day two, unfortunately, the holiday can seem like a distant memory.

This new year starts in a very different way to all of the others and It's understandable there may be some anxiety from parents and pupils about returning to school this year. Some of our children have already been back in school quite often and there are some that haven't. We were able to offer time to all pupils to meet their new classes and teachers at the end of term 6 but coming back in to full time schooling for the first time since March is going to be daunting. We have some children who have had lots of wonderful activities at home and some who haven't had that chance. There are some children who were in school almost every day, with no break from March through to July.

We understand that every child and family returning to us will have had different experiences, which is why our staff have had specific training on children's well being and how to reintegrate. We will take our time to help them adjust. We understand that there are gaps in learning, which we have already begun to identify and we have started to reorganise the curriculum to allow them to catch up at their own pace.

I have written to you before about the risk assessments we have in place, about how we have created guidance for each school to follow, in line with Public Health England and how we have put a raft of new measures in place to keep the children and the adults safe. I won't reiterate them here and each school will remind you of the specific rules for their school. I do however, urge you to follow them. Please read them carefully and talk to your child about them. They are there for a reason and that will not only help keep everyone safe, but also help keep our schools open and running for the near future.

If you are feeling anxious about your child returning to school or if you're unable to find any of the information you need, please contact your school and let them know. If you have further worries you can contact the trust: <https://www.bluekitetrust.org.uk/contact/admin@bluekitetrust.org.uk> or visit www.gov.uk/backtoschool for information and practical guidance to help them plan for their children's return to school. Leaflets for parents can be downloaded [here](#). Public Health England has published a [communications resource hub](#). Static and animated [social media content](#), [posters](#), [digital screens](#) and [adaptable assets](#) have also been published.

We have also sent a checklist for parents along with this letter to help you prepare for your child's/children's return to school.

Wishing you all the best for the new school year



Gary Evans
Chief Executive Officer
The Blue Kite Trust.