



East Dale Road
Melton, North Ferriby
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Dear Parent or Carer

We are writing to you to update you on how things are going following the re-opening of our schools last week. It is likely we will write to you quite regularly, as we have done since March, to try to keep you fully informed about what is happening and the decisions we are making in response to Covid-19.

Thank you

Firstly, we want to say what a fantastic week last week was! When we re-opened, we did not know for sure how our new arrangements would work and what our attendance might be. We were absolutely delighted that attendance across our six schools was over 98% which was far above national averages. Thank you for the way you have supported your children on their return to school and for the way you have worked with us as we put new arrangements in place. The support from parents has been crucial in getting students/pupils back and we are enormously grateful.

The way ahead

You will be aware that we have put a huge range of measures in place to try to operate our schools as safely as possible. In every decision we take we try to use all information that is available to us and to respond sensibly to a rapidly changing picture. All of our arrangements are under continuous review and when we find things that might make students and staff safer, we make changes. Our risk assessments are constantly evolving, and these are available for you to view. Please be assured that everything we put in place is designed to maximise safety, using the best expert information we have available to us.

Looking at what is already happening across the country and locally, we would be foolish not to be concerned about the risks and challenges schools face in staying fully open; it is really important that we are honest and open with you about those challenges.

There are 2 circumstances in which a school would be required to send some pupils/students home:

- If there is a positive case that might lead to an outbreak
- If the number of staff required to isolate becomes so great that the school cannot safely operate

We are doing everything we can to prevent either of these eventualities. However, this is already much more difficult than we had expected. To keep schools fully open we need a highly effective test and trace system; we are enormously concerned with what parents and staff are already experiencing in getting access to tests.



The Education Alliance is a charitable limited company registered in England and Wales No. 7542211 whose registered office is at the above address.



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Symptoms and testing

We appreciate the difficulties parents face if their child is unwell as we are clearly already well into the autumn cold season. As a rule, children can come to school as long as they don't have any one of the three symptoms the NHS regard as the most common Coronavirus symptoms:

- New continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

If your child has the above symptoms they should isolate at home (along with the rest of the household) in line with government guidance. You should seek to get a test, although we do recognise the enormous difficulties people are facing. More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If a child becomes unwell at school with any of the 3 symptoms above, they will need to go home and follow the advice above.

Suspected cases and confirmed cases

As soon as a person displays any of the 3 symptoms, it is considered a "suspected" case until a test is done and a result is returned. If a test is positive, it becomes a "confirmed" case. It is important we are clear about the difference. In the event of "suspected" cases, there is no need for communication from the school to parents as most suspected cases turn out not to be Covid-19 and because partial information is of no use to parents. In the event of a positive case of a student/pupil or a member of staff, the school will take advice from Public Health and communicate with all affected pupils/students and parents as quickly as possible.

What happens if pupils/students are required to stay at home?

In the event that a pupil/student is isolating at home, if they are well enough to do schoolwork, it will be available. The school will provide details of how that will work. In the event that a whole class is at home, we will endeavour to deliver "live" teaching remotely at the same time as the timetabled lesson in school, or a combination of live and 'on demand' learning where a teacher is unwell. Where a pupil/student does not have access to an appropriate device at home (or broadband) we will loan the appropriate technology to them.

Finally

Throughout the pandemic, we have been extremely proud of our pupils'/students' resilience and it has been nothing short of a delight to see them back in school. I have also been really grateful for the support and kindness of parents and the hard work and professionalism of school staff and leaders. Undoubtedly, we have a challenging few months ahead but please rest assured we all continue to do



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everything we can to keep pupils/students, staff and families safe and provide the best possible teaching we can.

Wishing you and your families all the very best

Yours faithfully

Jonny Uttley
CEO

Scott Ratheram
Executive Principal



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