

Swanland Education Trust

Tranby Lane, Swanland, East Yorkshire HU14 3NE
Tel: 01482 631300 Fax: 01482 633376
E-mail: enquiries@swanlandeducationtrust.co.uk



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www.swanlandeducationtrust.co.uk

Dear Parents or Carers

Mr Chris Huscroft
Chief Executive Officer

Firstly, may I take the opportunity on behalf of myself and my colleagues to wish you a Happy New Year. We do hope that you had a restful break and were able to make the most of the Christmas celebrations during what will have been a very strange time for many of you.

You will have undoubtedly seen much coverage in the media about your child's return to school in the next day or so. I therefore wanted to take the time to write to you today, once again on behalf of your children's head teacher and their school to give you some reassurances and thoughts on the current situation.

As I have said all along, we make our decisions based on the latest advice and scientific information available to us. As such I can confirm that at the time of writing this letter, your child's school will open as previously planned, this was communicated to you by the school before we broke for the festive season. It most certainly is our wish that we want to be back in school and the classroom, supporting your children with their education. The vast majority of staff support this but there are those for whom being in school creates a significant risk to either themselves or their families; for this reason, they will be considering carefully their next steps.

I do feel I must also give you an indication of some potential scenarios which we may find ourselves facing over the next few days. Some of the unions that support the staff who work in our schools have made it very clear that they should invoke their right to refuse to work in an environment which is not considered safe. This is of course down to individual members of staff, should they decide to do so the school will support your child's learning to the best of their ability. It is important however, to note that should insufficient members of staff be present in school this will lead to partial or full closure of the school on the grounds of safeguarding. There may also be further restrictions imposed either, locally or nationally which again will determine as to whether or not schools remain open. Our schools will of course, once again, support vulnerable and key worker children to be in school, should this happen. I reiterate again that it is mine and my colleagues wish that we remain open for as many children to attend school. If any of the above points have implications for your child, this will be communicated to you as soon as is possible.

It's so important to all of us at SET that we do the very best for **EVERYONE** in our organisation. I feel that there will be some tough decisions for all of us ahead. It saddens me that some of these decisions will inevitably have an impact on our school community but I know you will give your school and head teacher the support they really need at this time; please remember – the decision will not have been made lightly.

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

Yours sincerely

Chris Huscroft
CEO