



25 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Equa MAT Letter

Thank you for all you have done during this period of lockdown. Whether you have been home schooling, supporting with access to remote learning or bringing your child into school, I know it will have been challenging. Thank you too for the emotional support and encouragement you are giving your child, navigating through these uncertain times. All our schools have remained open throughout the period, and we thank staff for all their support to ensure children have kept on learning whether at home or in school. Most of all, we thank the children for their optimism, enthusiasm and engagement with learning. It has taught us about the wonderful independent skills, self-motivation and creativity our children possess.

What we realise even more acutely than ever, is that schools provide so much more than just learning the curriculum. It is a pleasure to see the social interaction and fun the children in school have, and we can't wait to see this for all children again soon. We very much hope that wider activities such as clubs, sports, trips and events can resume again soon to give our Equa children the varied and holistic education of which we are so proud.

We are delighted with the news that all primary and secondary children can return to school from 8 March, with the exact date dependent on mass testing logistics. We know our children are resilient and resourceful and that they will embrace the return to school with the great positive attitudes they have shown so far, however, their wellbeing is our immediate priority. Staff are working hard to support individual needs, and we welcome the additional funding provided by the government, to enable this to happen to a wider extent than previously.

As you will be aware, attendance at school is mandatory on full opening, and we thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child returns. We know that being in school is the best place for them, especially with the disrupted year we have experienced. Attendance in term 1 and 2 was high, a seasonal increase on other years, and we look forward to this continuing over spring and summer.

Meanwhile, I am sure you join me in hoping that this return to school is a permanent one, and we very much look forward to welcoming your child back soon.

Your child's headteacher, will be writing to you with details of the return to school and the safety measures put in place.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Lowkis
CEO Equa Multi Academy Trust