



15th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back. I hope the first few weeks of term have gone smoothly for you and your children are happy to be in school.

It's been great having everyone back and seeing everyone excited to be in class and with their friends. The children have settled into the new routines straight away and levels of anxiety are very low. The highlight of my week was a group of children shaking the fence at one of our primary schools shouting "can we come in yet?" ... Who'd have thought it?

Attendance has been back to normal and we are all extremely pleased we've had such a positive start. The staff efforts over the holidays to make the schools safe, accessible and places of learning have paid off! We have also made big improvements in the tricky area of drop-offs and pick-ups and staggered starts - which is not always easy in schools with one entrance and exit and again this could not happen without your willingness to help.

So, my first message is thank you! Thank you for all your support, kindness and patience, particularly when you have been inconvenienced.

Our challenge now is to focus on what happens in the classroom and ensure all children are back in the rhythm of school life, learning each day and filling in any gaps missed over lockdown. To help us with this there are a few things you could do that would really help.

The first thing is to use the information we provide - including the flow chart on what to do if your child is unwell - before contacting the school (attached again) I cannot thank you enough for your help on this. As you can imagine each of our schools have times in the day when it is not possible to look after the children, get them safely around school and answer the constant phone calls at the same time. With over 9,000 children in Xavier our priority must be ensuring children can access the school, be looked after and taught well.

We are determined to keep all schools open and have maximum attendance in school. We are being hyper-vigilant and doing everything possible. If we have a positive test, we don't get to decide who stays in school and who goes home. We get directed by Public Health England and must follow their instructions.

To avoid the nightmare of having to send home bubbles of children and thus cause your home and work life further disruption it's imperative that we work together in the interest of the children. We do this by fighting to keep the schools open and you do this by helping us!

So, what can you do to help?

- Please read the correspondence from school. 90% of our phone calls confirm information already sent.
- Please stick to your staggered times for drop off and pick up



- Please get a thermometer. The golden number is 37.8 (100f) so no need to ring if it's less.
- Please trust us to keep you informed. Social media is great for celebrity gossip, holiday snaps and trivia but not for school health and safety! Use whats app groups to share information not rumours/opinions
- Please exercise your judgment before contacting any teacher. We had a 300-word email about a reading book this week... seriously!!! At the moment the teachers are already getting very limited breaks and we mustn't expect them to be at everyone's beck and call.

I hope this doesn't come across as moany from me as it isn't my intention. I desperately want all our schools to stay open and teachers to be able to teach and care for the children.

Thank you again for your consideration and for starting the term so positively. The nice comments and feedback made a huge difference to Headteachers and staff last term. We are very blessed to have such a supportive Parent body.

God bless you and your families

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ani Magill', written in a cursive style.

Ani Magill
CEO Xavier Catholic Education Trust