

State Secretary

SAXON STATE MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE
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To all parents
of students
attending primary schools and
primary and lower secondary level
at publicly run special schools

Cc:

Parents of students at independent schools

Dresden, 12/2/2021

Dear parents,

The last few weeks and months have been tough. Remote learning from home has posed tremendous challenges and lots of additional stress for you and your children. I would like to sincerely thank you for your support and co-operation during this time! I, like you and your children, am pleased that schools will be reopening this Monday, 15 February 2021.

While the pandemic is unfortunately not yet over, the lockdown has now meant a significant decline in the number of infections. As such, we consider it the responsible thing to do to reopen primary schools and primary-level special schools for limited regular face-to-face learning based on the set class/group concept.

The framework conditions for this restricted regular operation are largely in line with those that most of you experienced from 18 May 2020 to the end of the last school year. This also applies when working and co-ordinating with after-school care services. Your school will provide you with the relevant information on school operations accordingly.

After two long months of home learning, during which you had to assist your children, students can now re-engage directly with their teachers, as well as their classmates. From Monday, lessons will go ahead based on the principle of set classes in order to limit the risk of infection and, in the event of an infection, minimise the number of contacts.

We believe it is important to resume face-to-face learning after such a long period of home learning, while also respecting the fact that some parents may have concerns given the current situation. For this reason, we have once again suspended the mandatory attendance rule. If you wish to unenrol your child from face-to-face learning, please advise your school and discuss how, in your specific case, further home learning can be facilitated for the duration of this decision.



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The educational offering at primary schools and primary-level special schools will focus on the core subjects of German/Sorbian, mathematics, general studies and, in year 4, English as part of the restricted regular operations. Consolidating the fundamentals of reading, writing and arithmetic will take priority. Content from other subjects can and should be incorporated into the lessons, and this also includes providing appropriate opportunities for exercise.

In resuming lessons at school, the teachers will act appropriately and display sensitivity when dealing with the children. The children's current level of learning will be assessed, and further lessons geared around this. This will ensure the fundamental learning content that could not be properly covered at home is taught.

Protecting against infection remains a top priority. Your children are now familiar with the pandemic as a result of their now extensive experience of it. Please particularly note the following rules, which will apply from 15 February 2021:

1. Medical-grade face masks must be worn by students, teachers, educational specialists and other staff in the school building and on the school grounds. This does not apply when children are learning or otherwise spending time in the after-school-care facility's common room. Masks similarly do not need to be worn on the outdoor grounds of primary schools, special schools or after-school-care facilities if set classes and groups are complied with. The face masks do not necessarily have to be FFP-2 masks. A simple surgical mask will suffice. This enables standard rules to apply for various important areas of life.
2. School may only be attended by children, teachers, educational specialists or other staff if they are free of symptoms. Forms providing regular written proof of lack of disease symptoms will not be required.

Please do not hesitate to contact your school directly if you have any specific questions. You are also welcome to contact the class' parent spokesperson or the parents' council in relation to relevant matters.

Dear parents,

Every day your children are back at school is important for them as they learn to read, write and do arithmetic. Primary school is where we lay the foundations for further learning, which is why opening schools now is the right thing to do. But we will keep monitoring the infection numbers. According to the Coronavirus Protection Regulation, schools will have to be closed again if the seven-day incidence rate of 100 new infections per 100,000 residents within a district or self-governing city is consistently exceeded over five days. This measure will only be implemented from 8 March at the earliest. Face-to-face learning at primary schools and child day-care may resume once infections fall below the aforementioned incidence rate over five days.

I wish your children all the best with their resumption of schooling!

Kind regards



Christian Piwarz