

Translation of parent letter from Minister Piwarz

12.2.2021

SÄCHSISCHES STAATSMINISTERIUM FÜR KULTUS

An alle Eltern von Schülerinnen und Schülern an Grundschulen sowie der Primar- und Unterstufe an Förderschulen in öffentlicher Trägerschaft nachrichtlich:

An die Eltern von Schülerinnen und Schülern an Schulen in freier Trägerschaft

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Parents,

Tough weeks and months are behind you. The home learning time has presented your children and you with enormous challenges with great additional burdens. For your support and cooperation during this time, I thank you very much! I am pleased with you and your children that school will start again next Monday, February 15, 2021.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is not yet behind us. However, the lockdown has now led to a significant reduction in the number of infections. As a result, we consider it responsible to reopen elementary and special schools at the primary level for face-to-face teaching in limited regular operation according to the concept of fixed classes/groups.

The framework conditions for this restricted regular operation largely correspond to those that most of you have already experienced from May 18, 2020 to the end of the previous school year. This also applies to cooperation and coordination with the after-school care center. Your school will provide you with the corresponding instructions for schools regarding school operations in an appropriate manner.

After the long two months of learning at home, during which you were at your children's side, the students can now resume direct interaction with their teachers, but also with their classmates. Starting Monday, the lessons will be implemented according to the principle of fixed classes in order to limit the risk of infection and to keep the number of contact persons manageable in case of infection.

We consider the attendance classes important after the long period of learning at home, nevertheless it has to be respected if there are also concerns on the part of the parents in the current situation. Therefore, we have once again suspended the compulsory school attendance. If you would like to withdraw your child from attendance classes, please inform your school and discuss how further home learning can be arranged in your specific case for the duration of this decision.

The educational program at elementary schools and at the primary level of special schools is to focus on the core subjects of German/Sorbian, mathematics, Unit of Inquiry and, in grade 4, English. Securing the basics in reading, writing and arithmetic has priority. Contents of the other subjects can and should be included in the lessons. This applies not least to appropriate opportunities for movement.

With the resumption of lessons in the school, the teachers ensure that the children arrive in an appropriate, sensitive manner. In addition, the children's current learning level is assessed. Further instruction is based on this. This ensures that basic learning content that could not be covered, or only in part, in the learning time at home is taught.

Infection prevention continues to be a high priority. Your children are already familiar with this due to the now long experience with the pandemic. Please pay particular attention to the following regulations from February 15, 2021:

1. In the school building and on the school grounds, the wearing of a medical mouth-nose protection is mandatory for students, teachers, pedagogical staff and other personnel. This does not apply during lessons or in the group room of the after-school care center. Wearing of the mouth-nose protection is also not necessary on the outdoor grounds of elementary and special schools as well as after-school care centers when staying in fixed classes and fixed after-school care groups. The mouth-nose protection does not have to be an FFP-2 mask. A simple OP mouth-nose protection is sufficient. Thus, there are uniform requirements for various important areas of life.

2. Only children, teachers, pedagogical staff and other personnel without symptoms of illness may participate in school activities. Regular written proof of lack of symptoms for illnesses by form is not required anymore.

Please contact your school directly in confidence if you have any specific questions. If you have suitable concerns, you are also welcome to contact the class parent representative or the parent council.

Dear parents,

for your children who are learning to read, write and do arithmetic, every day they are back at school counts. In elementary school, we lay the foundation for further learning. That's why opening school at this time is the right thing to do. However, we will continue to keep an eye on the infection figures. The Corona Protection Ordinance stipulates that schools must be closed again if the seven-day incidence value of 100 new infections per 100,000 inhabitants within a district or independent city is exceeded for five continuous days. This mechanism will not take effect until March 8 at the earliest. Classroom attendance at elementary schools and day care for children can be resumed if the incidence value falls below 100 for five days.

I wish your children a good start in school!

Yours sincerely,

Christian Piwarz