

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your families are well and enjoying the summer break, either locally within the UAE or abroad. We at RAK Academy are working hard to ensure the safety and well-being of your children when school re-opens on the 30th August. We are required to follow the MOE guidelines for safe re-opening which includes social distancing and class size limits. Based on these, we have submitted detailed operational plans to the Ministry of Education, and the following provides you with a broad overview of what school will look like in August/September (further details will be provided prior to re-opening):

- All RAK Academy Schools will re-open from Sunday the 30th August for the start of the new academic year
- Pre-K, KG1, KG2 and Grade 1 in all primary schools will fully re-open (school will be full-time)
- Grades 10, 11 and 12 will fully re-open in secondary (school will be full-time)
- Grades 2 to 9 (inclusive) will re-open based on a blended learning approach, meaning that students will be attend school for half a week (day on/day off) and when not at school will be provided online learning through virtual classroom access, live-streamed lessons and asynchronous (recorded) lessons.
- For parents who prefer that their children do not attend school at least initially (due to concerns over COVID or if they have an elderly, sick or vulnerable relative living with them), full-time online learning will be available.
- School day timings will be as per usual
- Full details of vehicular drop-off and pick-up procedures will be shared prior to school opening
- The school bus transportation system will be in operation with reduced loadings to minimise numbers on buses.
- Parents and visitor access to school will be controlled and managed and there will be no free access to the school building for parents or visitors. Students will be required to go straight to their classrooms once entering the school building
- **Temperature screening checks** will be in place at entrance points via thermal scanners and hand-held infrared scanners. *Anyone with a temperature over 37.4 (degrees Celsius) will not be allowed to enter the school.* Students who have a high temperature and don't have their parents with them will be kept in a specialised room with a nurse present until their parents can collect them
- All students 6-years and older, and all adults are **required to wear a mask at all times** whilst in the school building (*except whilst eating and undertaking physical activity*). The school is working on including comfortable, RAKA-branded, child-sized masks as part of the available school uniform.
- All classrooms, learning areas and recreational areas will be set-up to ensure the minimum required **social distancing of 1.5 metres between students**.
- For the time being **school visits and trips are postponed**, as is swimming.
- Extra-curricular activities (ECAs) will not be held, but this will be reviewed during the term.
- Libraries, PE (physically distanced) and other curriculum specific areas, including all specialist lessons, will be open whilst following the appropriate guidelines.
- Information on lunches and canteens will be shared prior to school re-opening
- Foot traffic in the corridors will be minimised as students will largely be based in one single classroom for the majority of the school day. However, in exceptions where senior students need to move to specialist rooms for PE, Art, Music, Science & Technology lessons (for example), defined markers

controlling movement in the corridor will ensure ongoing social distancing. PE lessons will be provided based on social distancing only.

- Specialist rooms will be fully cleaned and disinfected after each lesson, whilst the full school premises will undergo a deep clean and disinfection each day. Each classroom, and multiple general locations, will have a sanitisation station for the students to use.

The above points represent a general summary of our detailed plans, which are within MOE guidelines, who we continue to work closely with. I hope they give you the confidence **that school will ensure that learning is not impacted and that student and staff safety is of utmost priority in our planning**. I appreciate that you will have some questions, so please note that each Head of School will provide you with full and detailed plans prior to school re-opening. All plans are subject to final approval by the MOE.

I look forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Kind regards,

Graham Beale
Executive Principal