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Welcome to a new school year, and thank you for choosing a Focus- Trust school for your child.

As the new Chief Executive Officer of Focus-Trust, I feel incredibly proud to lead our family of fifteen schools. Together, we are committed to our vision of ***great schools at the heart of our communities***, ensuring every child receives an excellent education and the opportunity to thrive.

I hope you and your family have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the year ahead.

I would like to thank you for the fantastic support you gave your child's school last year, particularly in ensuring they attended school regularly and arrived on time. Across Focus-Trust, we have seen significant improvements in attendance and punctuality, and that has only been possible because of the strong partnership between home and school. Every day in school matters. Good attendance not only helps children make the best possible progress in their learning, but also supports their friendships, confidence, wellbeing and sense of belonging. We ask that you continue to send your child to school every day they are well enough to attend. If you are ever unsure whether they are too unwell for school, please contact your child's school, who will be happy to offer advice.

To ensure a consistent approach across all Focus-Trust schools, our attendance procedures follow the Department for Education's guidance. As you will know, schools are open for 190 days each year, leaving 13 weeks of school holidays for family time and holidays.

Headteachers are only able to authorise leave of absence during term time in exceptional circumstances. Each request will be considered individually, but family holidays and extended leave during term time are not considered exceptional circumstances and will not normally be authorised.

Where there are unauthorised absences, schools may request that the Local Authority issues a Fixed Penalty Notice. In cases where a child is absent for more than 20 school days, there is also the possibility that they may be removed from the school roll and lose their school place. Further information can be found in your school's Attendance Policy.

Thank you once again for your continued support. By working together, we can give every child the very best opportunity to succeed, develop positive lifelong habits and enjoy everything school has to offer.

I wish you and your family a happy, successful and rewarding school year.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Rowland, Chief Executive Officer

Please use the QR code below to view a thank you message