



DATUS NEWSLETTER

January, 2021

Edition 9

IT's 2021!

Hurray! Our Classrooms are Opened

Dear parents and guardians,

Reopening Of School

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year. Happy New Year to our entire *DATUS* Family. I hope everyone had a relaxing and restful vacation with family, friends, and loved ones, despite our country's encounter with the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been almost a year since we were last in school, so I am sure you are all anxiously awaiting the reopening of school. As always, it is with great pleasure to serve as your Principal of this fine school.

I would like to first reiterate that at *DATUS* as already noted for, we are committed to the safety of our students and staff. We are monitoring the news about COVID-19 and working with our local health officials to keep our schools safe. We want to share that we are taking the necessary precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs, and are cleaning off high-contact areas, such as paper towel dispensers, light switches, doorknobs, keyboards and desks. The status of this situation is extremely fluid, and we are monitoring the progress of this matter thoroughly and consistently; we encourage parents and students to continue following all the approved prevention protocols such as washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds; covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues; and avoiding others who are sick, social distancing and staying home - if ill.

Warmest welcome to all new students and parents of our dear school. Great experiences and adventures await you all.

As the principal of the school, I wish to assure all stakeholders of our great school that even in the face of the current pandemic, we are still fully committed to our high standards of *IB PYP* education.

Mrs. Christine Ansah
Head of School

Maintaining a Safe Learning Environment

We are working around the clock:

Classroom sizes will be decreased from the norm and will be based on a first come first serve basis.

School will start at 07:30 am and close at 03:pm. (Adjustment will be made when necessary).

Pupils/students will be taken through the CoVid-19 Protocols on the 1st day of reopening.

Parents whose wards did not participate in the COVID Online Classes should see the Head-teacher for a special arrangement.

Only pupils/students who have paid their school arrears in full will be admitted to their new classes.

Please, crosscheck with the accounts office if you are not sure of your ward's fees balance.

School uniforms, T-shirts and Polo-shirts are available for supply. Please, contact the accounts office.

Textbooks and exercise books will be made available for purchase when ready.



You have our promise that our Datus team is going above and beyond the guidance of the Ministry of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization to ensure the safety of our children. We are building on an ever-present focus on cleanliness and continually assessing ways to enhance safety throughout. This includes disinfecting classrooms, hallways, stairways, windows, restrooms, door handles and common areas regularly.

While we understand a change in school schedule may affect your regular schedules, we understand that safety is essential. Many of you have reached out to us to express your support with us - it means so much to us and our Datus family, and we thank you deeply.

TERM DATES:

Reopening: - Monday, 18th January, 2021

Easter Break: - Wednesday, 31st March – Friday, 9th April, 2021 (Back to school on Monday, 12th April, 2021)

Vacation: - Friday, 18th June – Thursday, 15th July, 2021 (Back to school on Friday, 16th July, 2021)

Mid-Session Break: - Thursday, 30th Sept. – Sunday, 3rd Oct., 2021 (Back to school on Monday, 4th Oct., 2021)

Vacation: - Wednesday, 8th December, 2021.

COMMON COVID-19 QUESTIONS AHEAD OF REOPENING

Should Children with underlying health condition (asthma, diabetes, obesity) return to school?

Whether a child should go to school depends on their health condition, the current transmission of COVID-19 within their community, and the protective measures the school and community have in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

While current evidence suggests that the risk of severe disease for children is lower overall than for adults, special precautions can be taken to minimize the risk of infection among children, and the benefits of returning to school should also be considered.

Current evidence suggests that people with underlying conditions such as chronic respiratory illness including asthma (moderate-to-severe), obesity, diabetes or cancer, are at higher risk of developing severe disease and death than people without other health conditions. This also appears to be the case for children, but more information is still needed.

What benefits would school reopening provide?

School closures have clear negative impacts on child health, education and development, family income and the overall economy.

The decision to reopen schools should include consideration of the following benefits:

- Allowing students to complete their studies and continue to the next level
- Essential services, access to nutrition, child welfare, such as preventing violence against children
- Social and psychological well-being
- Access to reliable information on how to keep themselves and others safe
- Reducing the risk of non-return to school
- Benefit to society, such as allowing parents to work



Checklist for Students and Children:

- In a situation like this it is normal to feel sad, worried, confused, scared or angry. Know that you are not alone and talk to someone you trust, like your parent or teacher so that you can help keep yourself and your school safe and healthy.
 - Ask questions, educate yourself and get information from reliable sources.
- Protect yourself and others:
 - Wash your hands frequently, always with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Remember to not touch your face, eyes, nose and mouth.
 - Do not share cups, eating utensils, food or drinks with others.
- Be a leader in keeping yourself, your school, family and community healthy.
 - Share what you learn about preventing disease with your family and friends, especially with younger children
 - Model good practices such as sneezing or coughing into your elbow and washing your hands, especially for younger family members.
- Don't stigmatize your peers or tease anyone about being sick; remember that the virus doesn't follow geographical boundaries, ethnicities, age or ability or gender.
- Tell your parents, another family member, or a caregiver if you feel sick, and ask to stay home.

Source: W.H.O (www.who.int)



SCHOOL FEES

Finance department is opened to all parents

All payments are to be made via the School's bank account

All account enquiries from parents should be emailed to the finance department (limiting human contact: CoVid-19) at accounts@dat.us.edu.gh

Visit our reception to pick up you're your bill for this new term.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

All parents are required to equip their children with the basic school uniform.

Girls' Uniform

Yellow top, Navy blue pin strips pinafore

Black Shoes, White Socks

Boys' Uniform

Yellow top, Navy blue pin stripes trousers

Black Shoes, White Socks

- *Polo shirt for Wednesday & Thursday.*
- *DGMIS PE kits for Fridays*

Our School Website

Take a virtual Tour of Datus

www.datus.edu.gh



Akwaba

We are Glad to have you
BACK SAFELY

LET'S ALL STAY SAFE AT SCHOOL

- Properly wear your face mask
- Check your Temperature
- Properly wash your hands
- Practice Social Distancing
- Sanitize your hands regularly
- Register your name daily

Healthy Children
make a
Happy School

PARENTS CONNECT

We use **Managebac** to build an amazing classroom community with our parents on a daily basis.

We share reports with them and use this software to track progress of school work and clear communication fostering a closer relationship between home and school