Dear parents,

It’s almost time for your child to begin school. This is a special event for your child, and for you, too, which you are no doubt looking forward to with anticipation.

The first day of school should be a wonderful day for everyone involved. We want this day to run as happily and smoothly as possible, despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

To ensure that this is possible, the latest measures for cultural events governed by Section 1, Paragraph 6 of the *Coronabetreuungsverordnung* (Coronavirus Care Regulation) apply in connection with Section 13 of the *Coronaschutzverordnung* (Coronavirus Protection Regulation).

This currently means that the usual hygiene measures must be observed at the start-of-school celebration:

1. Wear a mask,

2. Keep your distance,

3. Easy traceability of participants (through documentation of your name, address, telephone number, or email address – see enclosed form)

4. In order to protect the health of everyone attending the start-of-school celebration, we recommend that you have your child tested immediately before the first day of school. This test can be taken for free at a test centre (“*Bürgertest*”), or you can perform an antigen home-test on your child yourself (the test result must be no more than 48 hours old). This recommendation also applies to everyone else attending the start-of-school celebration (parents, other guests) with the exception of those who have been fully vaccinated or are fully recovered.

In order to make the day easier to organise and to get the celebrations started on time, we ask you to please have the enclosed contact tracing form completed and ready to hand in when you enter the school premises. The same applies to your proof of a negative test or immunisation as a result of vaccination or recovery. Please note that the specific details regarding hygiene measures depend on the incidence level in force for the school on the day of the event.

*[Space for individual information applicable to the specific school]*

If you would like to find out about the ‘lolly tests’ used to test for coronavirus at primary and special needs schools before school starts, full information and explanations can be found at the following link:

https://www.schulministerium.nrw/lolli-tests

Thank you for your understanding and support. We wish everyone involved an unforgettable first day at school and your child a good start to their enjoyable and successful time at primary school.

Best regards,