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Where we aspire, nurture, personalise,
engage and promote success

6th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I wanted to write to you in order to give you an update on everything that is happening at Maplewell. Thank you for your fantastic support for the school.

Government update

We are still guided by government guidance and we will respond accordingly when the government gives a schools update on Sunday 10th May. We have already started to plan for when school receives the green light to reopen. There will be many risk assessments to be undertaken in order to minimise the risks posed to students and staff. Considerations will include a phased return, reducing numbers of students and equipment in classrooms, limiting student and staff circulation around the site during the school day and the continuation of online learning.

We are also updating individual student risk assessments and staff will be asking for key information during their phone calls to home this week. Staff and students who will be required to continue shielding will remain a focus for us.

Rest assured that we will keep you informed of any developments and our response as they happen.

School Meal Vouchers

I know that Mr Patterson, our Business Manager, has been working hard in order to make sure that all students who qualify for free school meals are now in receipt of vouchers for supermarkets of their family's choosing. I know that there have been some teething problems for some people but we have worked hard to remedy any problems that have arisen. We will continue to provide vouchers until the government decides otherwise. Any problems, please feel free to contact us a.patterson@maplewell.leics.sch.uk

Those families who have been in receipt of meals delivered by school should now have received their vouchers. Therefore, from the week beginning 11th May 2020 we will no longer be delivering meals. This was our initial response, when supermarkets were short on stocks and before the voucher scheme had been implemented. I want to thank all staff who prepared and delivered meals throughout this period, including volunteering during the Easter break.



Social Distancing

Social distancing is very important during this time and will be essential once the decision is given by the government to reopen, whatever guise that takes. There are many video clips on the net to help people to identify what 2 metres distance is. Please talk to your children about this and encourage them to practice social distancing. When school does reopen we will be adhering to the 2-metre rule. We will remind pupils at the beginning and throughout every day. If we are unable to ensure that students use social distancing effectively, we will have to think about asking all staff to wear personal, protective equipment (PPE). This is something that we really want to avoid, but has to remain a consideration.

Assemblies

Please take the time to access our weekly assemblies that are posted onto Weduc and our website. These will be delivered in various formats with contributions from all involved with Maplewell. They will cover a variety of topics and updates. With this in mind, we are planning an assembly to highlight what students have been doing at home. Please feel free to send clips and photographs to school. admin@maplewell.leics.sch.uk we are constantly trying to keep all of our students engaged. For the Maplewell community to see what students have been doing will provide a big boost for everyone. Please include activities, artwork (especially NHS themed), weekly clap contributions and anything that you feel would benefit our community. I would also like to include these on our school website. Therefore, please check that anyone in the clips / photos are happy for them to be displayed by us.

Learning

Please keep encouraging your children to engage with their learning. We have been extremely successful to date, ensuring that students have access to high quality learning and that they receive valuable feedback as part of meaningful learning experiences. We monitor students who are engaging on a daily basis. For those that have not yet engaged we are in contact to support families. Further non-engagement will see direct communication with senior leaders, who will have a range of strategies to support students and families. Learning is lifelong and students need to buy into this approach.

Look after yourselves and your families. If we can assist in any way possible, please do not hesitate in speaking to us. There is always a senior leader on site during school hours.

School holidays

Staff volunteered to work throughout the Easter break in order to help families of key workers and deliver meals. It was something that was required at the time and I am grateful for their dedication and integrity during challenging times. School will be closed for all students on Friday 8th May for the VE day bank holiday. It is also our intention to honour the half-term break at the end of May and summer holidays, which begin in July.

Stay safe.

Jason Brooks
Headteacher