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engage and promote success

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Prime Minister's announced a National Lockdown with the closure of all secondary schools at 8pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. On January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:39pm the school received guidance from the Department for Education, detailing the actions schools should take in response. School Leaders have read this document overnight and you should have received a phone call today outlining what it means for you and your child.

There is a lot of related guidance, with the two most important messages for you are that schools should strongly encourage all children with an EHCP to attend school. The second message is that you as a parent or carer will not be penalised for making a decision to keep your child away from school during lockdown.

Please accept my apologies for conflicting correspondence previously, but we can only respond to government guidance. Within the past 5 days, we have been preparing for Covid lateral flow testing, planning for a phased return of students, responded to the announced national lockdown guidance, reintroduced remote learning and amended plans following yesterday's guidance.

In line with guidance, we have set up our Covid lateral flow testing stations. Our staff are trained to supervise, support and administer these for students and staff in school. This will help us to quickly identify positive cases and reduce the need for close contacts to self-isolate. You should have received consent forms, as mentioned in previous correspondence, and the guidance is clear that anyone who does not consent to testing should still be allowed to attend school.

We are educators, and our main priority is to provide a high quality education. Currently, we have around 25% of students attending school and therefore we are focussing our teaching and learning efforts on our remote learning. From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, every student will have a live tutor time, access to a minimum of 2 live lessons per day, and 5 hours of learning in line with government guidance. If your child accesses support from any of our therapists, they will continue to have that contact remotely. If numbers were to increase significantly on site, then our focus will switch to our on-site provision. We have plans in place for both scenarios.

We have also set up systems, including the [returntoschool@maplewell.leics.sch.uk](mailto:returntoschool@maplewell.leics.sch.uk) to enable parents and carers to make a request for their child to return to school at any point. Please do not feel that you have to make a decision one way or another and stick to it. We will continue to be in regular contact with you during these challenging times. Please do not hesitate in contacting us if we can help in any way.

Yours sincerely

Jason Brooks  
Headteacher

