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Dear Parents / Carers

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

At Maplewell Hall School we are continually looking for ways to guarantee the well-being and safety of our students. This is particularly relevant since the onset of the Covid 19 virus.

Since 20<sup>th</sup> March, when school closed for the majority of our students, we have continually gone above and beyond to do our very best for the whole school community. This included the delivery of school meals, the promotion of meaningful learning during lockdown and regular checking on the welfare of students and staff alike.

We have strictly followed government advice throughout, often having to react to last minute decisions taken by the Department for Education. We will continue to follow guidance in order to maintain our high standards and have a robust recovery curriculum in place.

As part of our return to school risk assessment we introduced;

- a one-way system across the site
- daily temperature checking
- the cleaning of classrooms and resources between lessons
- the installation of hand sanitisers across the school
- ongoing vigilance around regular hand-washing
- new lunch time arrangements adhering to social distancing
- deep cleaning at the end of each day

I am aware that there have been some concerns around the type of hand sanitiser that Maplewell Hall School uses. At Maplewell we use a non-alcoholic hand sanitiser. It is extremely effective and kills 99.9% of all known germs, which is why the NHS use the same one. Our combined measures will ensure that we keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

Alcohol-based hand sanitisers present schools with a particular set of risks. I am particularly concerned because alcohol-based products are flammable and present a high risk to everyone at school. They can give people horrible burns when they are exposed to heat sources and they also present a high risk to life if swallowed in any quantity. Being alcohol-based they can also become an irritant to people with certain skin conditions.

Please be assured that we are vigilant at Maplewell and the safety of our students and staff always comes first. Hand sanitiser is freely available in school, but it is no substitute for regular hand washing with soap and water, according to the World Health Organisation. Please refrain from sending your child into school with alcoholic-based hand sanitisers.

Kind regards

Jason Brooks  
Headteacher

