

Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 8QY

Tel: 01509 890237 Fax: 01509 891197

Email: admin@maplewell.leics.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mr J Brooks B Ed (Hons) NPQH



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engage and promote success

22nd April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I wanted to give you an update on developments at Maplewell, which is particularly important as we follow social distancing guidelines.

Ordinarily we would be starting the summer term in school. Things are very different right now for everybody due to the 'lockdown'. The government have reaffirmed their stance to extend the period of social distancing. I wanted to clarify that Gavin Williamson, the Minister for Education, has confirmed that there is currently no planned date for schools to reopen, that schools would get 'proper notice' and there were no plans to fully open schools in the 6 week holidays if the lockdown is lifted. As a school we are guided by the government.

There are a very small number of students who are currently attending school. They are mainly children of key workers and ones with exceptional circumstances. I want the whole of our school community, students and staff, to come through the current crisis unscathed. The overriding factor in risk assessing is to minimise the risk of any children or staff contracting the disease. Having as few students and staff in school at any given time is one of our main considerations for keeping everyone safe.

I have thanked the staff for their fantastic efforts in ensuring that children have ongoing access to regular and meaningful work. Please encourage your children to complete their work and engage in the process of learning. It is still very important to do so. I know that it may be challenging for some students but we are here to help if you require any support. The routine and regularity of school work is as important now as it has ever been. I would recommend having set times during the day when your children do their school work.

We are currently developing a number of techniques to make the learning more engaging. This include PowerPoint presentations with teacher voice-overs, designed to enhance student understanding. The Google classroom accounts are for students to have communication with their teacher and should not be used for social purposes. We will also continue to deliver weekly assemblies for students.

Your ongoing support of the school has been gratefully received and I hope that you feel that we are making every effort to support students and their families. This has included the distribution of free school meal vouchers to families who are entitled to them. I understand that there has been a slight delay for some people. If you have not received them by the end of this week please e-mail my Business Manager on A.Patterson@maplewell.leics.sch.uk



I have taken the decision to limit the amount of correspondence, in the hope that any information shared will not be missed. Currently we have between 80-85% parents / carers accessing Weduc. Please let us know if you would like any help in setting up a school Weduc account. Remember to check our school website for updates too.

Please look after yourselves and each other. Take regular exercise and use the tremendous number of support mechanisms that have been made available. Some of these are on our website and have been sent to you via Weduc.

Please do not hesitate in contacting school if we can help in any way. There are staff on hand to help during school hours Monday to Friday.

Stay safe

Jason Brooks

Headteacher