

Urgent Update

Given the latest forecast of staff numbers for Monday 23rd March 2020 we will be open for students whose parents are key workers. Although the government have not yet clarified who key workers are, we assume that the list will include NHS workers, Police and supermarket delivery drivers. We have endeavoured to identify which families are affected.

The government has said that school should also remain open for vulnerable children which includes those who have a social worker and those with Education, Health and Care Plans. For us this could arguably mean staying open for every child, which is not possible given the very clear advice in the same information published by the Department for Education, which states:

“The scientific advice shows that these settings are safe for this small number of children to continue attending – but asking others to stay away will help us to slow the spread.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-colleges-and-early-years-settings-to-close>

With depleted staff numbers from Monday 23rd March, I am very sad to say we will only be able to offer a reduced service in order to keep staff and children safe and to prevent the spread of Covid-19. This is not a decision that I have taken lightly but feel that it is the right one for the safety and welfare of everyone connected with Maplewell Hall School.

We are currently working through what this will look like in terms of how many children will be on site at any given time and aim to get this information to you as soon as possible. We will continue to provide work, via our e-learning platform, resources, advice, regular telephone calls and emails. Maplewell Hall School will still support everyone but the safety of our students is paramount.

If your child receives free school meals, we will also be in touch with more information about how we will continue to provide this. Our catering staff will ensure that they still receive a hearty meal and our school staff will provide a delivery service for pupils in receipt of free school meals.

The situation is changing on a daily basis and we will continue to update you via our website, Weduc and Facebook. I understand that this will impact on our families but I know if we work together as a school community we can keep everyone safe and come through unscathed. This will help to beat the virus.

Thank you for your ongoing support at this very difficult time and do not hesitate in contacting us if you or your family need assistance.

Take care

Jason Brooks
Headteacher