

Date: April 2020



## Mrs Cliff's Comments

### INSET Days

2020/21

Tuesday 1st September

Friday 23rd October

Friday 2nd July

Monday 19th July

Tuesday 20th July

### Dates for your Diary:

New dates will be added soon!

#### Friday 8th May

Spring Bank Holiday

#### Friday 22nd May

Break up for Half Term

#### Monday 1st June

New Half Term begins

#### Friday 17th July

Break Up for Summer Holidays

#### Tuesday 1st September

INSET Day

#### Wednesday 2nd September

New term begins.

### Joke of the Month

Q: Why is April so popular for using a trampoline?

A: It's Springtime!



### Facebook

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### School Closure

School has certainly been very quiet over the past few weeks following the government's decision to close all schools for the foreseeable future whilst we tackle the Covid-19 crisis. This decision put a quick halt to all the plans that we had for our children and the curriculum learning from which they were all thriving. We have had to adapt things and develop new technologies to try to maintain the contact with our families and children.

One of the forms of communication has been the move to online learning platforms. We have subscribed to Purple Mash, an online platform which can support the children through many activities and games. This alongside 'Times Table Rock Stars', 'My Maths' and 'Oxford Reading Buddy', has enabled the teachers to stay connected and further build on the learning taken place so far. Thank you to all the parents who have actively engaged with supporting their children and we understand that some families have been having technology issues so have not found using these platforms easy; but for these parents, engaging with learning beyond the screen is just as important.

I have really enjoyed seeing the children engage in outside learning and taking advantage of the lovely weather that we have been having recently. Seeing children exploring their gardens and baking cakes, has been as valuable as completing an online task—as well as explaining why there is no flour left in the shops!

The teachers are all working hard to plan exciting learning opportunities which the children can do both on and off line and I request that you make weekly contact with your child's class teacher to keep them up to date with what you are doing at home and that you are safe and well. We are making wellbeing calls to any parents who we are not hearing from so please don't be alarmed if we turn up on your doorstep to say hello!

We are already making plans for when the children return and are focussing on settling the children back in and the transition that they will

need to prepare them for their next year's learning. This is crucial for our children in Year 6 and I want to reassure all parents that we are already talking to the academy about your children and making plans to ensure that they will achieve success during this period of change. It is also important that we say a proper 'goodbye' to the children so even though we have had to cancel events such as Peat Rigg, we are still planning to hold a Leaver's BBQ and Farewell Assembly—we just don't know of the dates yet! I will strive to keep you as updated as possible in the coming weeks.

### Remote Learning

#### Nursery

The children in nursery have been practising many of their skills whilst at home; such as physical, communication and maths.

For their physical skills they have been throwing and kicking as well as catching balls. Some children have even created their own obstacle courses using many items around the house and garden. Even simple things such as walking up and down stairs have helped to develop the children's counting skills as well as coordination. From their focus of 'minibeasts' children have created 'junk' models and shared some wonderful pictures of caterpillars, butterflies, rainbows and flowers. The children have also shared pictures of their favourite teddies (including Mrs Holmes) and explored how they were all different.

#### Reception

The children have been learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, being sent photos and videos of the caterpillars changing into butterflies before Miss Slater set them free. Many of the children have been on minibeast hunts and made homes for the minibeasts that they have found and learnt about what they need to survive. Even when helping around the house, children have been learning such as helping hang the washing out (counting the pegs) and stacking the dishwasher (counting the plates).

Online, the children have been using 'Minimash'; playing games, drawing pictures, completing

## Maltby Manor News, Events and Activities

puzzles and writing sentences. The children have also continued to share their love of reading with their grownups in a variety of ways from sharing a story book to playing games about the stories.

### Year 1

The children in Year 1 have been keeping Miss Petch and Miss Dawes very busy with their daily updates! They were particularly impressed with Kayson's writing and Poppy's photographs of her fairy garden. On Purple Mash the children have been researching about Neil Armstrong and trying to remember many facts. The teachers enjoyed seeing the children's faces in the space suits! The staff miss the children so much and they love to see the photographs that the children email in of them enjoying the time that they are spending at home.

### Year 2

Year 2 have also been impressing their teachers and making them smile everyday with their photographs and stories of their learning. Adley has learnt a new skill and can now ride his bike and Georgia has explored time outside by chalking the patio to tell the time and is going to share her new skills when everyone is back at school. Everyone has been so busy learning, exploring, and making the most out of this bizarre situation. The highlight for the Year 2 teachers, however, was when they received the most amazing collaborative video of the Year 2 children. We all found it incredibly special to see all the children at home, staying safe, having fun and being the brilliant, entertaining, thoughtful children that we know and love.

### Year 3

The children in Year 3 have been working on robots and forces and magnets to link into the topic that they were learning in

school. Children have shared pictures to show how they have conducted science investigations at home to find out how they could group some different materials found around the house and then base their ideas on the properties of the different materials. The teachers have seen some children use household objects to help them build their own robots to link to 'The Iron Man' story that they were also reading in school! It has been lovely to see photos and videos of children in the year group completing their online tasks as well as learning new life-skills too - some have used this time to learn how to ride their bikes without stabilizers for the first time and even conquer their fears by helping parents out in taking care of their horses. It puts a smile on the teachers' faces every day to see what the children are up to and to know that they are enjoying their home learning! Keep up the hard work Y3!

### Year 4

It was brilliant to see the whole of Year 4 come together over Easter, teachers and children, to film a video for Darcie Mathison in Buckingham. We really enjoyed seeing the ingenious ways that the children thought of to send their messages to her. A special, massive thanks has to go to Mrs Wilby, who took control of receiving the children's videos and worked hard over her Easter holiday to produce the video. Thank you! It's amazing what can be achieved when everyone works together.

As for learning, Year 4 have been finishing off their learning journey about The Romans with Maths which was all about Roman Numerals and they created a document about Roman Life on Purple Mash. Some of the drawings shared were excellent!

We know the children are disappointed that the visit to Harry Potter World has

been cancelled but we know that they will all enjoy reading the book over the coming months and look forward to seeing 'Hogwarts' when they visit Alnwick Castle in October during the Bamburgh visit.

### Year 5

This week the children have started to think about forces as part of the new learning journey 'Can you feel the force?' They have undertaken some science investigations at home to explore gravity, mass, weight and air resistance by dropping a range of objects from the same height. They have also explored water resistance and made sensible predictions about whether an object will float or sink. A special mention goes to Josie and Owen who emailed Miss Walker their brilliant tables and scientific reasoning. The children have also delved into some famous scientists including Archimedes and thought about the invention of the Archimedes screw, which we were lucky enough to see in action at Cragside House. Some detailed biographies about the scientists have been created on Purple Mash too. Well done everyone!

### Year 6

Year 6 have been so diligent with their home learning since lockdown, even though their end of year SAT tests have been cancelled - some children are getting up as early as 7am to complete their Maths and English!

The teachers have also been so impressed with the children that have pushed themselves to be creative with their home learning: baking cakes, trying wartime recipes, building Anderson shelters to test their strength in a Blitz bombing and even taking on the task of looking after their chickens. 'Keep up the hard work guys' says Miss Bennett!

### New Communication App

Over the Easter holidays we have updated the way that we will communicate with parents and changed from the text service to the MyEd app. We have been very impressed with the number of parents who have signed up already and are hoping that all parents sign up as it will become the hub of communication for from us to you. Key messages will come through straight to your mobile and you will be kept up to date with your child's attendance, fill in forms as well as enabling you to keep up to date with what is happening in school. If you have not done so already, the App can be downloaded from your App Store and then search for Maltby Manor. For more information please visit <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/>



**95%**

Attendance

Keep up to date with your child's attendance details. Taken directly from school and updated on a daily basis.

Forms

My Ed stops the age old problem of not receiving letters from school. Fill in forms securely on your app and return them directly to your child's school.



### Key Dates

If you are always missing events or just need to check that you have space in your diary for other events My Ed is able to show you all the events that your child's school wants to share.