

Date: May 2020

Joke of the Month

Q: Why did the pupil eat his homework?



A: Because the teacher told him it was a piece of cake!

INSET Days

2020/21

Tuesday 1st September
Friday 23rd October
Friday 2nd July
Monday 19th July
Tuesday 20th July

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 22nd May

Break up for Half Term

Monday 1st June

New Half Term begins

Please await confirmation of the date we will be reopening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children.

Friday 17th July

Break Up for Summer Holidays

Tuesday 1st September

INSET Day

Wednesday 2nd September

New term begins.

Mrs Cliff's Comments

Mental Health Awareness Week

This week is mental health awareness week and with our current situation I can't think of anything more important for us and our families right now. Not seeing our friends and relatives and not being in our normal everyday routines is hard for all of us and we need to look after each other now more than ever.

The theme this year is 'kindness', which I think fits really well. Seeing the many simple effectively do acts of kindness are really appreciated. Even our youngest and oldest members of the country are getting involved. Over the next few weeks, please share this with your children and families and think about no matter how big or small, we can all spread a little bit of kindness around our community.

Staffing Update

It is about this time of year that I update you on any staffing changes that we are expecting in September. First of all, I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Mrs Talbot, who is expecting her first baby in the autumn and will be leaving us in September to begin her maternity leave. Miss Rooney, after being with the academy for a number of years, will be leaving us to move to a school in Barnsley where she can continue to share her teaching skills with new children. Finally, after her year's secondment, Ms Brown will be leaving us to join the team of staff at Maltby Redwood Academy.

These last few weeks have been difficult in ensuring that we have the right team in place who are best to support your children moving forward. I am already in the process of planning the class groups for September and am aiming on having as little change for the children as possible. Some children will retain their class teacher, some their teaching assistant and some their classroom. I am still finalising the plans and will share with you all once confirmed in the coming weeks. It is

going to be an unusual time but my priority is to keep things as stable for the children as much as possible as I am not sure as to when we will see the children and be back to normal.

Home Learning

I am continuing to be impressed with the level of engagement that the children are having with their learning. I think you are all doing a remarkable job and remember, please do not be too hard on yourselves. We are in a very difficult situation at the moment and I am very impressed with you all keeping our children safe and well.

A number of the children are getting tired of the same old routines and learning set on Purple Mash so after the holidays the teachers are planning to share with the children more creative and interactive tasks so that they are not sat on the computer all day; especially if the sun continues to shine! With this in mind, could I please request that you email your child's teacher weekly with an update of what they are doing at home to keep them up to date and include photos if you wish as I know the teachers love seeing the children.

Now that we are in more of a routine, last week we emailed parents the first COVID-19 Superstar Awards. All the children who received them were very surprised and thank you to all the parents who responded with their messages of thanks. I know the staff over the past seven weeks have worked extremely hard to ensure that your children have continued education at home, so receiving these messages made their day.

Reopening School

On Sunday 10th May, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that from 1st June, schools should re-open to children who attend Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and we are com-



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mitted in ensuring the children return safely so that they receive some education soon. Since the announcement I have been working closely with the other leaders in the trust as we are committed to getting the children back to school 'when it is safe to do so'. The provision for key worker and vulnerable children will continue as normal.

I can confirm with you that we are planning to undertake a phased and limited reopening at some time after 1st June but as yet, I cannot confirm the exact date. There are still many questions which have to be answered and until I am fully satisfied that the health and well-being of both the staff and pupils is secure, I am not willing to put anyone at risk.

Once we do reopen, there will be a very detailed risk assessments in place to ensure that everyone who is on site is as safe as possible. Part of the risk assessment includes children being taught in smaller groups or 'bubbles', of no more than 8 children per bubble, and key adults will remain with the same bubble. The children and adults will not move between teaching spaces or mix with others during the day. For the older year groups, there will be strict rules

around social distancing, and desks will be spaced apart within the classroom — in line with the 2 metre rule. For the youngest children, wherever possible, social distancing will be promoted and maintained. All soft furnishings have been removed from classrooms and the children will adhere to a rigorous hand-washing and sanitising routine throughout the day. There will be staggered breaks and lunchtimes where the children will be encouraged to play and engage in non-contact games. We will also be asking you to bring the children at different start times and pick up at different finishing times to minimise the number of parents on the school site at one time.

I want to be as honest as possible with parents about the preparations that we are making to ensure that you are confident and able to allow your child to return to school. I also understand that some of you are nervous about your child returning. I will keep you as fully informed as possible regarding our plans and in the meantime, please rest assured that the team of staff at Manor are working closely together to ensure that your child enjoys and is prepared for their return to school. In the meantime, stay in touch, keep working with your children and let us know if there is anything we can do to help you and family during this unique time.



Parent Communication App

Thank you to all the parents who have signed up to our new communication app. Over 63% of families have registered and downloaded the app and I hope that you are finding it useful with all the latest information and news being shared from the academy.

All key messages will now 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 MyEd App can be downloaded from your App Store and then search for Maltby Manor Academy For more information please visit <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/> During closure we have found it increasingly difficult to have that direct line of communication as we don't see you on a day to day basis but please keep in touch either via the phone or email. The teachers love to hear about what you are all doing at home.

Facebook

Keep up to date with our latest news.
@MaltbyManorAcademy

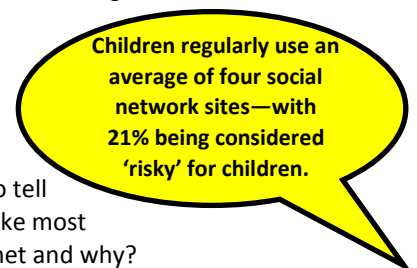


Keeping Safe On-Line

Over the past few months of school closure, the children are being encouraged to access more online learning platforms and resources and as a parent, you question yourself as to are they safe?

One way to keep your children safe is to talk to them and ask about the sites they are using and what makes them enjoyable. Encourage your child to use positive behaviour online. Have a conversation with them about the comments they post and about if they could not say that to a person face to face, then they should not say it behind the safety of a screen.

Also use online safety tools and resources included from your internet provider. Setting parental controls will disable your children being able to access inappropriate materials. Some providers also email parents to let them know what their child has been accessing.



Children regularly use an average of four social network sites—with 21% being considered 'risky' for children.

Conversation Starters

- * Ask your child to tell you what they like most about the internet and why?
E.g. sites they visit, games they play and how they communicate with others.
- * Ask your child to tell you how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for dealing with online issues or if they see something which is unsafe?
- * Ask your child if they know where to go for help, where to find safety advice and privacy settings, and how to report of block on the services they use.
- * Ask your child what they would do if they saw hateful content online. Who would they turn to for help?
- * Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there any activities you could enjoy as a family?

For more information and advice, visit www.saferinternet.org.uk