

Date: July 2020

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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:

Friday 17th July

Break Up for Summer Holidays

Tuesday 1st September

INSET Day

Wednesday 2nd September

New term begins.

NEW FOR PARENTS



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Thank you to all our families and the community for the support you have given to our children over the last four months. It has been a very challenging time and we have missed them all, we are looking forward to seeing all their smiley faces again in September.

Have a lovely summer break.

Mrs Cliff



End of the Year

The end of the year has been quite a solemn one in school this year as we have found it very different not celebrating the children's achievement, saying farewell to our Year 6 children and saying a proper goodbye to the staff who are leaving. Even though it has been difficult, all the staff have been working tirelessly to support the children who have been attending school as well as making the school look amazing for September when the children do return. The library areas have been overhauled with new furniture and decoration and the main corridor has been decorated and has new signage in place.

I have to commend the children who have been attending school in the key worker bubbles for their dedication, coming into school when their friends have not. They have been amazing and so adaptable with the different members of staff on the rota and moving from what was initially one bubble to the six that we now have. I have seen the children's confidence blossom and I know they have developed some good friendships with children who are not normally in their class. I hope these friendships continue into next year as the children return back to their normal class groups.

Transition has looked very different this year as the children have not been able to meet and work with their new class teacher. We have, however, sent home video messages and the new children who are starting with us in September in Reception and Nursery have participated in a zoom call with Mrs Berry and their new teacher so that they can meet her and ask any questions they may have. As you know it is really a nerve racking time for parents when children are not only starting school, but also moving to a new class so we have tried to support parents as much as we are able at this difficult time. It was exciting seeing the Year 5 children when they came into school at the beginning of the week to spend a morning with their new Year 6 teacher. The children were so excited to see their friends and come to school. Some of them likened it to Christmas morning!

Plans for September

Over the past few weeks I have been preparing the school ready for September when it is expected that all children will return. The government has stated that the risk to children's education is more than the risk of the virus so all children have to return in September and attendance is **mandatory**.

'Returning to school is vital for children's education and their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.' DfE July 2020

Therefore, in September, all children will be returning to school. However, things will look different. Over the last few months we have put new procedures in place and these will continue. We have introduced a one way system as the children enter the school site and also leave. The children will come through the main gates in a morning and leave by the exit near the MUGA. Parents who I have spoken to about this system have commented on how well it works and that the collection of children at the end of the day and dropping off in the morning is much smoother.

So that we can maximise the learning of all children, we have organised the children into year group bubbles. This will enable the children to arrive together, eat together and play together as a group. It will also enable the staff to work closely with the children, especially the support staff who will work across both classes to best support the children.

What time do I bring my child to school?

In order to get all the children safely onto the school site in a morning, the children have been allocated an arrival time. All children in both KS1 and KS2 will be met on the KS2 playground by their class teacher before being escorted into the building. The arrival time has been staggered and we ask that you strictly keep to your arrival window. Children in Year 1, Year 3 and

Maltby Manor News, Events and Activities

Year 4 will arrive between 8.35am and 8.45am and children in Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6, are expected to arrive in their window of 8.50am and 9.00am. We are strictly keeping to these times and if you are late, you will have to wait until staff are available to accompany your child to their class. Families with children in both arrival windows, we ask that you work with us on this and once you have dropped off your first child, you then leave the site to return for your second child's window. We are aware of inconvenience of this but we need to ensure the safety of all the children entering the site.

Parents of children in Reception and Nursery can take their children straight to the classroom door where they will be met by their class teacher. Reception children will arrive in the window of 8.35am and 8.45am and leave at 3.00pm and children in Nursery will arrive in the 8.50am to 9.00am window and leave school at 3.15pm.

At the end of the day, your child will again leave the site at different times. Children in Years 1, 3 and 4 need to be collected at 3.00pm and children in Year 2, 5 and 6 will be at the usual time of 3.15pm. Again, if you have children at both times, we request you leave the site in between so that children can enter the building safely.

What will happen at lunchtime?

Lunchtimes are going to look slightly different as well in September. The KS2 children

will eat in the dining hall and the children in Reception and KS1 will eat in the KS1 hall. The children will have 45 minutes for their dinner and will have either a sandwich choice or hot choice. The sandwiches will be a choice of ham, jam, cheese, tuna mayo or chocolate spread and the hot choice will be different on each day and will be either jacket potato, burger, pizza and fish on Friday. We want to encourage as many children as possible to have a school dinner so that lunchboxes are not brought in from home. For children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 there is no charge under the government infant school meal agenda.

Next Steps

I am sure you will have many other questions and further information will follow during the six weeks holiday with more detail around what the children will experience on site but before we break up for the summer, I wanted to give you some indication of the timings so that you can make arrangements for September. Any further questions, as always, please feel free to make contact.

Joke of the Month



Q: What do frogs like to drink on a hot summer day?

A: Croak-a-cola!



Helping Children During a Pandemic

There are some key actions you can consider to support your child mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic, including:

Listening to and acknowledging their concerns. Children may respond to stress in different ways. Signs may be emotional (for example, they may be upset, distressed, anxious, angry or agitated), behavioural (for example, they may become more clingy or more withdrawn, or they may wet the bed), or physical (for example, they may experience stomach aches).

Look out for any changes in their behaviour. Children may feel less anxious if they are able to express and communicate their feelings in a safe and supportive environment. Children who communicate differently to their peers may rely on you to interpret their feelings. Listen to them, acknowledge their concerns and give them extra love and attention if they need it.

Children will want to feel assured that their parents and carers can keep them safe. One of the best ways to achieve this is by talking openly about what is happening and providing honest answers to any questions they have.

Message from Mr Martin—Chair of Governors

As the chair of the governing body it has thrown all sorts of doubts and concerns up for me. Not least of which is the question; 'How can I and my fellow governors ensure that the school is providing a high quality service, when we can't go into school to see what is happening?'

However, the School and the Learning Trust have utilised government and health service advice to create a series of risk assessments and plans for each situation in school, to manage as effectively as possible children's attendance at school.

The Trust has shared these widely, with governors and also with parents and other interested parties through online newsletters and the school website.

From early March I was aware that the senior leaders in school were keeping up to date with events and developments through a series of online meetings held by the Trust, which helped them to plan and ensure they were maintaining a high degree of safety for everyone.

The Trustees and Local governing committees have now held a number of online meetings and whilst this has taken some getting used to, have been able to hold the leaders of the Trust and the Schools to account. This is in addition to individual telephone contact. I was pleased to see our school providing photos on the website of the new arrangements in school and publishing the arrangements for parents bringing children into school and collecting them afterwards.

Like so many things in all of our lives, it is such a change. Hopefully a temporary change.

There is a real determination to ensure that school keeps providing the best service that it can, but now with the additional challenges of keeping everyone safe as we do that.

There is a long list of people for me to thank for making this happen, everyone in school obviously, but also all of the children and you all as parents/carers, your support and understanding has been paramount to keeping schools operating.

Paul Martin

Chair of Governors

July 2020