



Maltby Hilltop School

an academy within Nexus MAT

Larch Road, Maltby, Rotherham, S66 8AZ

Tel: 01709 813386

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www.maltbyhilltop.com www.nexusMAT.org

Headteacher: Mr David Burdett dburdett@nexusmat.org



Friday 16th October 2020

Dear families,


Preventing COVID-19 infection

I know we are all very worried about COVID-19 and we are all trying to minimise the risk. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. This is particularly important where they have:

- a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature);
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if your child usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste – this means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Since returning in September, we have experienced a lot of absence across all the Trust academies due to people isolating as a protective measure, as someone they live with has COVID-19-like symptoms but hasn't had a test. The Government guidance requires a whole household to isolate in these instances and for the person displaying symptoms to get a test, and with the national shortage in testing we do expect this to lead to a loss of school days for pupils and staff without there ever being a positive COVID-19 test result.

As such, we need to ensure we reduce any and all risks of staff and children having to isolate, so ensuring you keep your child at home if they have any of the above symptoms and getting them tested is a critical means of ensuring we don't lose more school days this year than we need to.



If your child has:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in, sense of
smell or taste

This could be a sign of
coronavirus

Book a test

If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or
feeling unwell
But they don't have:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in,
sense of smell or taste

These are
not normally symptoms of
coronavirus

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial
111 or see your GP

Many of our pupils are very vulnerable and we need to do all we can to ensure we all stay healthy and safe.

We are doing all we can when we have a potential Covid-19 case to keep that 'bubble' isolated and ensure staff and students do not attend school if there is any risk.



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Training Days

We have a training day at the end of this half term on Friday 23rd October. Students last day will be Thursday 22nd October before a week's holiday. We all return Monday 2nd November.

We are able to have an additional training day this academic year and this will be Monday 4th January when we return from Christmas. Students will return on Tuesday 5th January.

Christmas Events

We have made the decision we will not be having any school 'gatherings' of anyone until Spring 2021 at the earliest. The school team are planning for 'virtual' Christmas performances which will be on video.

Firstly, we will check who is happy for our students to take part and have them on video and shared with others. Each class group will be working on an element and we will bring it together. Our older students are working (as ever) on a 'socially distanced' pantomime and again this will be shared.

I am sorry we are not able to invite you into school but this is essential to try to protect our students and staff. If you have any questions just contact me. More information will follow.

Parent's Facebook page

There is a really friendly and helpful 'parents only' Facebook page which is organised by Becky Earp, who is our Parent & Carer Ambassador. Please do use it to keep in touch during this difficult time.

Consultation on possible changes to school dates

We are consulting with staff and parents around school holidays. We thought it would be worth asking if having an extra week's holiday in October half term would support our students and their families. This would then mean that the summer break became 4 weeks. We often feel the autumn term is a long one for our learners and wanted to know what you think. We will send out more information.

Donation of a 'Winter cycle trailer'

A generous parent has donated a cycle trailer to school in the hope that another parent would be able to use it. It is in great condition and has all the attachments to any bike. It for a young learner and a variety of seats can be fixed into it. If you are interested please email or speak to myself.





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Parent Governor

We have one of our governors whose 3 years term of office is ending and we wanted to check if another parent was interested in taking on the role. The governors act as a check on what we are doing and provide a very useful critical friend and support us to improve what we are doing. If you are interested contact David or Shaz the chair of governors.

Dates for your diary

Name of event	Date and time	Booking details
Inset/training day for staff school closed	Fri 23 rd Oct	School finishes for holiday Thurs 22 nd October. Return Mon 2 nd Nov
Proud assembly	Fri 16 th October	This will be 'virtual' so sorry parents not invited.
School closes for Christmas	Last day Friday 18 th December Training day Mon 4 th January	Students return Tues 5 th January

David Burdett
Headteacher