



Maltby Hilltop School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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Headteacher: Mr David Burdett dburdett@nexusmat.org



Tuesday 1st December 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 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. The next training day following this is Tuesday 22nd February.

Christmas Events

As you know we are trying to avoid any non-essential visitors to school. Just to give you a heads up on events as you can't be here.

Upper school/6th Form Panto will be recorded live at 10am Thursday 10th December.

Christmas dinners for all students will be Wed 16th Dec followed by a showing of the Christmas lower school videos. A COVID-19 safe Father Christmas will virtually visit Primary students on Thursday 17th Dec with a gift of a book donated from Maltby Town Council. We will finish Friday 18th with a proud assembly.

Finishing at 1pm Friday 18th December

We would really like to finish school at 1pm on Friday 18th December to thank our staff and recognise their hard work. We will send out a link to a yes/no questionnaire asking if you are prepared for school to finish at 1pm. We will send you a link by MyEd/text message and ask that you respond by Monday 7th December please. If a majority of parents agree we will finish early. Please contact me if this creates any major issues for you.

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 changes to school dates 2022-23

We consulted with staff and parents on school dates for 2022-23 and there was not a clear majority. We did this via 'slips' going home. We will send out again in the new year just to confirm your wishes and it will be a simple online form via MyEd. If you don't have access to this we will offer an alternative.

Staffing

We are struggling to cover staff absences in classes. This week, we have had our first class that couldn't attend for three days due to inadequate staffing levels. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to swap staff to different bubbles or recruit additional 'supply' staff. We think it is very likely that we will need to move to a combination of reduced days at school for some students and we will close classes for short periods if the staffing levels are unsafe. We will try to ensure, as far as possible, that time away from school is equitable. There may be some times in an emergency that we need to cancel schooling for your child on the day. However, we will try to plan for this and let you know beforehand wherever possible.

Parent Governor

I am thrilled to confirm that Cathryn Miller has been confirmed as an additional parent governor and I am sure she will offer both challenge and support to continue to move Hilltop school forward for our students.

David Burdett
Headteacher