



Maltby Hilltop School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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Headteacher: Mr David Burdett dburdett@nexusmat.org



Wednesday 16th September 2020

Dear families,

New Classes, pupils, families and a return to class groups

Welcome back to all our pupils. It has been ages since I have been able to send a 'normal' communication to everybody. It is great to see 90 pupils back at school. It is more than we expected and I do thank you for trusting us with your child. We are doing all we can to keep everyone as safe as possible. I feel so proud and pleased with just how many children have just settled back in so well.

Wellbeing Support

We have appointed two staff, Robyn Gillespie and Helen Salim, as part time wellbeing support for our pupils. We would encourage you or your child to talk about your concerns and worries so we can effectively support all of us to stay healthy and well.

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.

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

New Pupils

We have a number of new pupils who have now formally started on roll with us and have had a good week in their new school. A few of them are still increasing their times/days and I would like to welcome all of the children and families to our school.

New Staff

We have had a number of new staff, which includes Joanne Grantham who is our new deputy head along with Claire Rose. They have both done a great job in organising things day to day to get pupils back to school. We appointed Chloe Rudkin as a teacher in Larch class and Mathew Seemarks in Lime class. We are also pleased that Eilish O'Neil is now a permanent teacher in Red class. Many classes have new



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Teaching Assistants who we are so pleased to have appointed after we had a series of outstanding candidates.

Parent's Chinwag and Facebook page

This is a very informal and friendly meeting for parents to discuss whatever is important to you. If you have not been I would recommend you contact Becky Earp and take this opportunity to chat to other parents. There is also the 'parents only' Facebook page which again is organised by Becky, who is our Parent & Carer Ambassador. Be kind to Becky, though, as this is a voluntary role!

Therapies

We have sent a notice out on the MyEd app to check whether you want your child to access additional therapies in school which may be delivered by staff outside their class 'bubble'. Please fill in a response as soon as you can, to let us know.

Retirement

Both Karen Hornung and Glynis Lindsay retired at the end of the last school year and we were unable to have any celebration. We do wish both of them well and hope they enjoy their retirement.

Closure of 'Bubbles'

We are closely following Government and Nexus MAT guidelines about responding to possible cases of COVID-19. If we get a positive case of COVID-19 in school, it may be that we have to close the school to a class bubble for 14 days, for all staff and students to self-isolate and ensure that we are minimising the spread of the virus. This decision will be taken by the school and the Trust, following advice from Public Health England. We will obviously let you know as soon as we are aware of any confirmed case. We would ask everyone to follow Government guidance around self-isolation and testing/track and trace.

School Building Work

As a consequence of being an academy in Nexus MAT, we have had lots of changes at school which have so improved the quality of classrooms and layout of the building. We have created a new classroom within the existing school building which is looking smashing. There is a new modular learning space outside school and our Sensory Integration and the family support teams are now based there. The lower school playground has been tarmacked and gives us more usable space. The work on a remodelled orange class should also be completed today which now forms a new EYFS unit with yellow class being planned and organised skilfully by Alice Williams and Bev Cotterill.

We have applied for a grant to create a music therapy room which is very exciting and would use new technology to respond to children's movements to create sound and light effects. We are hoping this will be agreed so we can get on with developing this tremendous provision for our more complex pupils.

I know this has been a difficult and stressful time for many months, for us all. I do want to thank you for working with us to support your child coming back to school. If you have any particular concerns, please email or ring school. I am just so proud of the tremendous way our students and staff have done all they can to return to school and keep things as normal as possible.

David Burdett
Headteacher