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Dear Parents and Carers

This is the last weekly letter of the year but please do look out for communication from me over the summer as I am sure I will need to share further updates with you. I apologise for the length of this letter in advance but it has been a busy week and I have quite a bit to share with you about plans for September.

Assemblies

Firstly, it was lovely to see our year 14s and their guests at our very small leavers' assembly in the secondary outdoor area yesterday. Between the five leavers, they have been at Mabel Prichard for 70 years, with one of them having been with us for 17 and another for 16. All of them are going on to either City of Oxford College, or Abingdon and Witney and we wish them all the best.

We also had two virtual assemblies for primary and secondary and we were able to wish our year 6 leavers all the best at the primary assembly. All but one are moving up to our secondary site. The secondary assembly involved more choir, which has been an absolute support throughout this time and I would like to thank Annie for all her input.

Learning Blog and Mabel at Home

As you know, we have provided daily on-line learning via our blog since just before lock down as a number of you had opted to stay at home. I would like to thank Alex for his exceptional work on this and to our teachers for planning the activities, making sure there is new learning every day. We will not continue this over the summer but will continue our Mabel at Home Facebook page as this seems to be a really valuable means of us all staying in touch and sharing successes. Please continue to post what you and your families are doing. It is exceptionally heart warming for us all.

Reports and information in the post

Over the next couple of days, you will receive your son or daughter's report in the post, along with any awards for the year and a parental agreement for their return in September, outlining the changes that will be necessary to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Staffing news

At the end of this term, we are saying goodbye to Hannah Licata, who has been in Orange class for 3 years and is leaving us to go to Chilworth House special school. We wish her all the best and



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towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England



will miss her. We are welcoming three new teaching assistants in September, Lisa Burgess, who is a qualified Play Therapist and has experience working with adults and children with learning difficulties; Emily King, who comes to us with experience of play schemes and supporting children in different settings and Sam Price, who has extensive experience working in special schools and has also worked in a mainstream nursery. We are very pleased to welcome them all when the new term starts.

I am also very pleased to share that Erica Boaden had a baby girl called Isla on July 2nd. We wish her all the best and look forward to a time when we can meet her.

Breakfast Club

We are thrilled to have been selected to take part in a national pilot of a Breakfast Club scheme. The original idea was for the charity to provide the food to us and for us to build breakfast into the school curriculum. This would form part of morning registration and the students would make their own breakfast (cereal and toast), lay the table and have breakfast together while having registration. Obviously, with COVID-19, this scheme has to change and we are currently looking at how this will look in September. You will receive further information and you will also have the choice for your son or daughter to take part or not.

September Return

We are very excited about welcoming our students back in September. As I shared earlier in this letter, you will receive a parental agreement outlining what can and cannot come into school in September, how we will manage the beginning and the end of the day safely and other measures you need to be aware of. I also thought I would share some of the measures we will have in place to reassure you we are doing all we can to make the school as safe as possible, and although it is a lengthy document, I thought it may be good for you to keep as a reference if you have questions now or if a situation arises in the future. We are also making a video showing you some of the measures in school, so you are aware of procedures should you come to the site and so you can show your son or daughter. Please do ask if you have any questions about our plans.

Finally, can I thank you all for your incredible support over this time. We have really missed everyone and are very much looking forward to students returning in September. I hope you have a good summer and are able to get some rest.

Take care all and thank you.

Best wishes



Lucy Wawrzyniak
Head Teacher



Mabel Prichard School September opening plans for a safe return

The usual prevention measures apply.

- Do not come on site if you have symptoms

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

Families and staff will be expected to engage with the test and trace process.

Clean hands more often than usual:

We will continue with rigorous hand washing for staff and students that will take place more often than normal. As we have sinks in every classroom, it is possible to do this without sending different classes to toilets any more than is necessary.

Promotion of the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it approach':

- A ready supply of tissues are available in all rooms.
- Pedal bins on hand.
- Face coverings are not recommended except when we are changing or feeding students.

Enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using detergents and bleach:

- A 2 hourly cleaning schedule takes place throughout the day (We have additional measures to keep the products away from students but also make sure surfaces and toilets are regularly cleaned.)
- Classrooms will have all unnecessary furniture removed and all surfaces will be cleared to improve opportunities for cleaning

Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible:

- Social distancing is not possible for the majority of our students, so we focus heavily on personal hygiene and site cleanliness.
- We will not hold assemblies or choir until further notice
- We will have lunch delivered to classrooms and students will eat there.
- There will not be any swimming until further notice.
- Sensory and soft play rooms and outdoor areas will operate a rota system for each class and will be thoroughly cleaned between each class group.
- Students will use their classroom outdoor areas to be outside and have a specific time for a break in the larger areas.

- Students will have their own bubble areas where they will share toilets with one or two other classes and toilets will be cleaned after use.
- We will retain consistency in class groups.

Measures within the classroom

- Increased hygiene protocols are already in place.
- Those who can be supported to maintain a distance will be.
- We have small class sizes, so we are able to give students and staff space.
- We will arrange classrooms so desks are not as close together as usual

Measures for arriving at and leaving the setting

- Early Years and Key stage 1 pupils will be given a staggered start time if their parents bring them in. They will enter via the field gate and through the back door of the classroom.
- Those on transport will be collected and brought in through the hall back door and distancing will be maintained at all times.
- A video demonstrating how this will work will be shared next week.
- Any students or staff choosing to wear masks on their way to school will be supported to remove them safely,. Staff have the 'donning and doffing of PPE' video to support this and students must be supported to do the same. Students must be instructed not to touch their face during wearing or when removing them and disposable coverings must be disposed of in a covered bin and reusable face masks must be placed in a plastic bag and sent home for washing.

Other considerations

- We will use social stories and visual aids to support the transition back.
- A record will be kept of all visitors to the school for track and trace purposes.
- We will consider when it is safe and proportionate to reintroduce integration with colleges and other schools.
- We will provide students with their own pack of pens, pencils and other resources and they will not be shared.
- Books and games can be shared within bubbles and cleaned regularly.
- We will consider the cleanability of all resources while not compromising a students' access to their curriculum. Where cleaning or disinfection is not possible, we will restrict its use to one student, or leave it unused for a period of 48 hours and 72 for plastics between use by individuals.
- Outdoor playground equipment will be frequently cleaned.
- Equipment brought on site by students will be limited each day (e.g. lunch boxes, hats, coats and is outlined in the parental agreement.
- PPE will be used for changing and feeding, or if an individual becomes ill with symptoms and 2 metres cannot be maintained.

Response to infection

- We will engage with the NHS track and trace process and inform our local Public Health England health protection team who will risk assess and advise. Staff and families must be prepared to:
 - Book a test if they are displaying symptoms
 - Stay at home if they are displaying symptoms
 - Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they test positive, or if asked by NHS test and trace.
- By the Autumn term, we should be provided with a small number of testing kits on site, so we can speed up the testing process.

Manage confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst the school and college community.

- We will take swift action where we hear of a positive case when someone has attended.
- We will be guided by our local health protection team.
- We will have records already made of each group and any visitors (specialist teachers, therapists etc.) to aid test and trace.

Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

- If we have 2 or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where COVID-19 is suspected, we will work with the health protection team to see if additional actions are required.
- Should an outbreak be confirmed by the Director of Public Health, a mobile testing unit may be sent to our school to test anyone who may have been in close contact with any cases.

Transport

- Transport are currently working out which measures to take. We have requested primary and secondary site students are not mixed on transport.

Attendance

- It is now mandatory that all parents send students back to school; however, we completely understand some of you will have well-founded concerns and we will work with you to reassure you of measures we are taking to make school as safe as possible.

Educational Visits

- We have currently risk assessed not to return to these at least for the first half term until we have a sense of the spread of the virus after lockdown.

Extra Curricular Provision

- We are looking to resume after school club after the October half term when we have a sense of the spread of the virus after lockdown.

Curriculum Focus

- We will focus on recovering the most important parts of the curriculum and supporting our students in their transition back to school.

Additional risk

- There may be additional risk of infection from singing, chanting or playing wind or brass instruments so we will not be holding any of these activities. We are likely to continue choir virtually.

Physical Activity

- Pupils will need consistent groups and sports equipment should be thoroughly cleaned between uses.

Catch up support

- We are eligible for catch up support for our students and we are currently looking at how we can best use this.this.

Student wellbeing and support

- As always the wellbeing of our students is our priority and we are building this into our curriculum. If you have any concerns about your son or daughter and would like to talk to us, please do get in touch.