



25 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

We reach the end of another week where we have been very pleased with the attitudes shown by our students in their lessons. We are all enjoying these early weeks of the term and so pleased that many students have adjusted back into good routines and are adopting a positive mind-set towards their work.

This week we held a virtual "Open Event" replacing our usual open evening. Whilst it was not quite the same as inviting prospective students and families into the school, nevertheless our virtual event went smoothly and seem to have been well received. These events are supported by a new section of the website which contains a number of video presentations. Whilst these have been produced for prospective students, you may also enjoy watching them. They can be found [here](#).

I would also like to outline a number of operational matters to ask for your support:

Contacting the school

We are very happy to hear from parents and encourage you to get in touch with us to ask questions, share concerns or even encouragements! We would ask that wherever possible you email the school rather than telephone or arrive in person. Due to our Risk Assessment related to COVID-19, we need to limit the number of different people coming onto school premises and, unfortunately, we need to ask parents not to come onto school grounds unless it is absolutely essential.

We do need to know if your child cannot attend school. As a reminder, if you are reporting a student absence you should email merattendance@maidenerleghtrust.org before 8.40 each day your child is absent. If it is not possible to email, then please call the school 01189668065 and select option 1 to ensure your message goes directly to our attendance officer, Mrs Cowling. If leaving a message, please state very clearly the name of your child, which tutor group they are in and the reason for the absence.

Travel to school

Crescent Road is a very congested road and we wish to keep our positive relationship with our neighbours and keep everyone safe so, we would like to encourage you to consider walking or cycling as the best options for travelling to school. If a student really must travel to/from school by car, we would ask you to drop and pick up students on the Wokingham Road – a 2-minute walk from the school. Please also note that cars will not be permitted past the barrier at the front of school for the 15 minutes before the start of the school day or for 15 minutes at the end of the day (unless with prior permission). This is to ensure the safety of students.

Behind the scenes, we are liaising with our neighbouring schools: UTC and Alfred Sutton Primary School to work with Reading Borough Council on some longer-term solutions to the traffic problems on Crescent Road and I hope to be able to write to you soon about these.

If your child chooses to ride their bike to school, please could you ensure that they wear a bike helmet and that they lock their bike using a strong "D" type lock. Our open frontage does mean the bikes are vulnerable and so we encourage students to use the lockable bike area (to the right of the school) or to use the bike stands at the rear of the school building. Regrettably,

whilst we have protective measures in place including a locked shed and CCTV, the school is unable to take responsibility for any bikes and they are brought to school at your own risk.

The end of the school day

One of the safety measures that we have introduced this term is a staggered dismissal of students. This is to limit the amount of contact the students have between the year group bubbles. We are encouraging students to move off site quickly at the end of the day and to then disperse. I would like to politely ask parents not to wait on the school grounds if you are meeting your child and to organise a meeting point away from the school.

Sweets and chewing gum in school

Please can I also ask parents to ensure that students do not come to school with sweets or with chewing gum. Unfortunately, since the start of term we have seen a rise in this and it is not appropriate for students to be eating sweets in school; it also creates litter. Students are able to bring a snack which can be eaten during break time which should be a piece of fruit or a snack bar. This should be eaten where students are spending their break time (which is currently outside) and they should not be eat in the corridors or between lessons. If students are eating sweets, it is likely that they will be confiscated.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to thank you for your understanding and support over the last few weeks. We are very proud of the way that staff and students have risen to the many challenges but we could not have done that without your support.

Do enjoy the weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Johnson
Headteacher