



The Manor
Preparatory School

To All Parents

Friday 26 June 2020

Dear Parents

Weekly Update

This week has seen the return of yet more children to school in Years 2 - 5 and it has been wonderful seeing them engage with one another and their class teacher. Next week we will welcome back the other half of each class and we hope that the weather will be as glorious as it has been this week, if perhaps slightly cooler!

There are a number of messages that we wish to share this week.

Class Moves

At this time of year, we would be preparing for our Class Moves Day. Clearly this is not possible in the same way as it has been previously. Our focus has been on getting the children back into school with their current teacher and friends as we felt that the most important aspect was to ensure the children had a chance to finish this academic year without having to cast their minds forward to September.

We are of course awaiting further Government guidelines as to what September may look like. I have already started working very closely with the Senior Team on three separate plans based on what we perceive to be the most likely scenarios. Our primary objective is to get every child back into school in September and we know that this will be achievable. We will be sending out class information for next year on the final day of this term which we would ask you to share with your children. As ever, a huge amount of thought, time and consideration has gone into the decisions that have been taken. I would give one caveat to this in that we may have to change things for the start of the new academic year, should restrictions on class groups remain in place - current guidance only permits fifteen children in a group - but we will be keeping in touch with you over the course of the summer break to ensure that you are kept fully up to date.

Clubs

Mr Chitty is currently working on the extra-curricular programme for September. We will share this with you but most likely this will happen in the

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final week of the holidays when we are more certain as to what we can and cannot do. Rest assured we are aiming for a normal programme of activities and wraparound care as far as is possible.

Parents' Information Evenings

We would like to draw your attention to the dates for the Parents' Information Evenings, which historically sit at the start of the Autumn Term:

Early Years - Thursday 10 September, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Years 1 and 2 - Thursday 10 September, 7.30 - 9.00pm

Years 3 and 4 - Tuesday 15 September, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Years 5 and 6 - Tuesday 15 September, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

These evenings are a great opportunity to meet your child's Form Teacher in their classroom and to gain an understanding of what lies ahead for the next academic year. It also gives you the chance to ask any questions that you may have. You will also be able to meet your child's other teachers over a drink and nibbles in the Dining Room (social distancing measures permitting!).

Manor Fun

An increasing number of parents have enquired as to whether Manor Fun and Mini Manor Fun will be running this summer. I appreciate fully that for many of you this represents a very important support over the long summer break. We have plans in place to run this but the latest information that I have seen implies that we will not be told whether running summer holiday care will be possible until 4 July, at the earliest. This apparently forms Step 3 of the Government's recovery strategy but we will of course keep in contact. In order to be as fair as possible to you it is highly unlikely that we will be running holiday care for the first two weeks of the summer break. Whilst we appreciate that this will be inconvenient for some, we need to ensure that the school is properly ready to create new groups of children. Again, should guidance change then we are ready to adapt our plans.

Uniform and SHUS

We have been asked about the plan for uniform in September. We are meeting next Friday afternoon to discuss this as we appreciate that over the summer you will want to prepare for the new school year. We will communicate this to you shortly after the end of term.

Unfortunately we have been unable to operate the second-hand uniform shop since lockdown began. If we are permitted to do so, we will be offering appointments in the last week of the holidays. This will allow families time to drop off any donated items over the summer and for us to be able to get them into the shop to make them available for resale. We will communicate the full details of this later in the summer.

Summer Ball

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Very sadly the Summer Ball was firstly postponed and now cancelled for this year. Thank you so much to all those parents who supported us in this venture. We will be holding a school ball as soon as large gatherings are permitted so please look out for a new "save the date" in 2021. Refunds have been made via cheque where appropriate, or credited to your end of term bill if you opted to pay in advance and for those of you who opted to include the ticket price on your end of term bill, this of course will not appear.

Last day of term for all attending children, including Critical Workers

With the exception of our Year 6 leavers who have received a separate letter regarding their last day of term, term will end, as published, on **Friday 3 July at 12noon** at your usual gates.

Medical Update

Please may we remind you not to send your child in to school if they have any symptoms at all, COVID-19 related or otherwise - thank you.

If any of your family members fall ill with COVID-19 symptoms for the first two weeks of the holidays please could you let us know so that we can keep the DfE up to date with cases, and suspected cases in school. Again, thank you.

We very much look forward to a great final week of the academic year next week.

Yours

Alastair Thomas
Headmaster