20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to start by thanking you on behalf of the whole team at Maypole School.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child and allowing us the opportunity to support, care and help to develop your child both academically as well as socially and behaviourally. I know I speak for the entire Sunbury and Streatham teams by saying it has been a true joy getting to know your child.

We can’t quite believe the first half-term is finished already. Over the course of this half-term, we have been getting to know the pupils, exploring their likes and dislikes as well as trying to motivate them to engage with their academic learning. The staff teams have been working hard to find out key triggers and implement behavioural strategies to help support your child as well as develop and build positive relationships.

We have had a really positive start to the academic year and welcomed 33 students overall. Our plan is to invite parents/carers in once we are more settled and established. This will be in a staggered and managed way so that we don’t overwhelm the children and, as you are aware, space is limited. Either Craig or myself will look to liaise with you about dates when we feel the time is appropriate.

In the meantime, we will continue to share lots of the wonderful work that is being completed each day via our phone calls, emails and/or weekly update letters.

**Site Updates;**

**Sunbury:**

Wye class have settled in very well. They are completing all of their lessons and are celebrating each individual’s personalities and interests. They have enjoyed the reward system and had a great time spending their hard-earned money.

Mersey class are working really well together. They are engaging well with the curriculum which is a huge achievement. They enjoy running around in their breaks and lunchtimes and enjoy playing games in the classroom.

Thames class initially have struggled to adjust to the new building and staff that they are working with. However the bonds that the pupils have formed between themselves is lovely to see. We are working on behavioural strategies to help support and motivate these young people with engaging in their academic work and are excited to see where the new half-term will take us.

**Streatham:**

Circle class has settled in really well to the building and although there has been lots of new faces and changes for the children to adapt to, each child has adjusted incredibly well and they all seem happy and content in their new environment. They have been learning through play, repetition and have been working towards their social communication skills.

Waterloo class has started off very positively with the pupils getting to know one another and recognising key traits that they would like in a friend. The staff have been supporting the pupils with identifying when they are becoming overwhelmed and how we can help them to manage this feeling and channel in a positive way.

Northern class starts off every morning with a ‘good morning’ routine and it’s a lovely way to start off their day and I often join in as well. The relationships that each child has built with their staff team has been wonderful to see and there has been lots of artwork created and on display around the school.

Central class unfortunately has been delayed, due to transport reasons. However, we have an eager staff team ready and waiting to support your young person with engaging in education.

Victoria class has been very busy this half-term getting to know one another and they have written lots in their books. They have been engaging well with their afternoon activities and have been very welcoming to potential new students who have visited as well. We’re really pleased with this promising start in Victoria class.

District class has had a very positive start to the academic year, working closely with their staff team to look at solving mixed fractions, identifying animals as well as gaining an understanding about autobiographies. District have engaged well with their afternoon activities and are looking forward to the new half-term and new sessions that will begin.

**Absence;**

As the weather and temperature start to change, please be mindful if you are sending your child to school when they are unwell. Transport have communicated with the school and outlined that under no circumstances will they be able to come and collect the child early, if they need to be sent home.

At Maypole we understand the impact that sending your child home early will have for your entire family. I want to reassure you that if we call you asking you to collect your child, we would have explored every avenue before deciding that this is the best course of action. We balance the welfare of your child along with the other students in the environment.

No staff member is permitted to administer pain killers such as Ibuprofen or Paracetamol, or any other non-prescription medication, at any time.

If you decide to make the decision to keep your child at home, please contact Craig Reed if your child is based at Sunbury or myself (Kitty Clark) if your child is based at Streatham at your earliest convenience either via telephone or email with a brief description.

Craig Reed - creed@maypoleschool.co.uk 07842 422 419

Kitty Clark – kclark@maypoleschool.co.uk 07512 318 040

**Looking ahead;**

**Streatham**

Streatham pupils return from half-term on: Monday 30th October 2023

INSET day on Friday 1st December 2023

Term ends: Thursday 21st December 2023

**Sunbury**

Sunbury pupils return from half-term on: Tuesday 31st October 2023

INSET day on Friday 1st December 2023

Term ends: Friday 15th December 2023

At the end of each half-term/term our day will finish at 12:30. We sincerely apologise that we did not communicate this to you all sooner and have now reflected this on our website.

After half-term you will receive the teacher informed base-line assessments that are currently underway. This provides us with an indicator of each child’s ‘starting point’ so that we can help track and support their progress for as long as they are with us. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We have also been creating Individual Educational Plans (IEP’s) which we will share with you when we return from half-term. We hope we can collaborate with you to help your child achieve their targets.

Next half-term we will also be sharing our overview and our policy of Relationship Education (primary aged pupils) and Relationships and Sex Education curriculum (secondary aged pupils). We would be very grateful for any feedback and comments that you may have.

Kind regards

Kitty Clark

Executive Headteacher

kclark@maypoleschool.co.uk

07512 318 040