



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been another busy week for us here at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge. The roadworks have continued, however as I write it looks like Reades Lane will re-open later today and allow us to have the buses back on site by Monday. Whilst we have enjoyed the morning and afternoon walks we will also be grateful to get this time back! The students though have been great ambassadors for the school and I am grateful for their sense of maturity and responsibility in managing themselves so well on the walk. However, once again, please can I make a plea that masks are worn on the bus to and from school. We have so far been incredibly lucky to escape the effects of positive tests for Covid but I know it is when and not if! Lastly, just to keep you informed I have asked for two buses for each route to be supplied to replicate our bubbles at school. Unfortunately, that request was turned down which is frustrating but means the need for masks is even more important.

We have held three virtual parent information evenings (Year 7, 10 and 11) this week which has definitely caused a little stress and anxiety in making sure we have the correct equipment and all know how to use it. Thank you to all the parents who joined us live and their kind comments. Hopefully we will go back to normal at some point as I really prefer meeting people and forging the partnerships so vital for the community life of a school. A link to the events will be on our website on Monday. Apologies for the delay.

The one negative of the week has been having to work with some of our younger students on their inability to use social messaging responsibly and safely. Please can I ask that you do keep an eye on how your children use their phones, who they are talking to and messaging and what they are saying as once it is written it doesn't go away!

Next week sees our first proper round of school review work going on for this academic year. We will be seeing every teacher across the week for a short observation and giving developmental feedback from the lesson in question. This builds on the leadership teams regular informal drop in and quality assurance work and will be followed up by a work scrutiny in two weeks' time. As Headteacher it is really important we know our strengths and development points and we work together to ensure that the students get the highest quality of experience in the classroom at all times. This process is calendared and part of a formal programme across the school year and I hope will further accelerate the rapid journey the school is on.

I have been out to Kidmore End and Sonning Common Primary Schools this week talking to prospective students and trying to give them a flavour of what MECE is like. These events are in the build up to our Open Evening on October 6th. I have been delighted by the level of interest in this event and we have well over 200 prospective families signed up to this evening along with tens of others signed up to our Open Events across the next few weeks (in replacement of Open Mornings). It feels like the narrative about the school is shifting given the levels of interest in these events which is great. We are now keen to get OFSTED in to show them what a great school we are and such a long way away from the school on the report of March 2017.

Have a great weekend and take care.

Andy Hartley
Headteacher