



Moss Side Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mr A Wright

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Dear Parents,

I hope that this update finds you well and that all of our families are enjoying their holidays (where possible work permitting). I know that lots of you have been in touch with Karen during the break and she has kept me updated!

In the main, the information below remains the same as it did in July when I last wrote to you although there are a couple of changes that are worth noting. You will be aware of the increased media attention ahead of the return of schools in England and I know that there might be mixed feelings across (and even within) households. The main principle of our work to combat COVID-19 is reducing the amount of different people mixing within school but ensuring that we can re-open and provide as close as possible our normal curriculum and positive environment as we are all aware of the importance of getting children back into school, learning and socialising with their friends.

#### Class 'Bubbles'

School will reopen on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020** for all pupils in years 1-6. Our new reception class have received separate information about their starting arrangements. Each class will form their own 'bubble' and the children from each class will remain within their own 'bubble' for the whole day. At the present time, physical whole school events, such as assemblies or performances will be unable to happen.

#### Blobs

Two bubbles will have the same timetable for breaks and dinners but will remain apart at these times. Each class will have their own designated areas of the playground and hall throughout these times, to reduce contact as much as possible. These staggered times will also give pupils more space to play.

These two 'bubbles' will form a 'blob'. The blobs will be Year 5 + 6, Year 3 + 4, Mrs Simpkins + Mr Gilyead, Miss Jones + Mrs Swift.

Blobs will also use the same spaces within school (at different times). It may not always be possible to clean tables between two bubbles using these spaces back-to-back eg. Year 5 and then Year 6 in Science Room but the spaces will be cleaned should a different blob eg. Year 3 using the Science Room later in the day.

#### Start and End of the Day

The start and end of the school day will be staggered so that the challenges of social distancing during these busy times are reduced. Only one adult should bring the children to school and pupils in Year 4-6 may walk home if preferable - it is for parents and pupils to make this decision. We have attempted to keep these times as



tight as possible in order to make it easier for families but are aware that there is a gap in some cases. As with lots of arrangements, this will be kept under constant review.

The timings of the day will be as follows:

	Mrs Swift	Miss Jones	Mr Gilyead	Mrs Simpkins	Mrs McKenna/ Mrs Glynn	Mr Kellett	Miss Thomas	Mrs Torbett
Drop off	9.05*	8.55	8.50	8.50	9.00	8.55	8.45	8.45
Pick up	3.20*	3.10	3.05	3.05	3.20	3.15	3.10	3.10
Location	Infant doors	Infant doors	Infant doors	Y2 door	Y3 door	Junior doors	Junior doors	Y6 door

\* We intend to change this to 9.00 and 3.15 once the children are quicker at getting in and out

### *Junior Side of the Building*

When dropping off in the morning, please leave pupils at the Front Gate to walk to their class themselves. Siblings may walk round together and wait if necessary (eg. Year 5 pupil enters school at 8.45 and their sister in Year 4 waits on their marking until their door opens). Staff will be present on both the playground and Front Gate to monitor this. If it is necessary, parents should queue along the hedge on either side of the gate. When collecting at home time, please arrive at the given time entering via the Front Gate and then leave the yard as quickly as you can, via the car park gates, making sure your child is next to you. This will create a one-way system around school.

- Mrs Simpkins' parents will wait on the yellow lines either side of the classroom door.
- Year 6 parents should space out in the Quiet Area. Please do not sit on benches.
- Year 5 and Year 4 parents should space out around the multiplication square area, leaving a distance between the fence and main door to allow a flow of traffic.
- Year 3 parents should space out in the central area of the netball court.

### *Infant Side of the Building*

When dropping off in the morning, use the Infant Gate and queue up on the yellow distance markers at the allocated time (please arrive promptly but not earlier than necessary). Parents should leave via the gate to the car park. When collecting at home time, please repeat the same route, collecting your child from the door and leaving via the car park.

Childminders will be allowed to wait, at the end of the school day, on the Junior playground nearest the car park. Should it be necessary, they can also wait in the centre of the Infant playground in the morning but, at all times of day, must keep their children close to them and not allow them to run around. Wherever possible, we would ask any other parents to wait off site (on the grass verge opposite school or in cars should they have driven) until it is time to enter school. Parents must inform Infant class teachers if their child is to be collected from a childminder and they can be sent out via the hall to them. Junior pupils will be expected to walk to find their childminder as usual. Similar arrangements will be made with Moss Side Playgroup Out of School Club.

### Dinners

The children will be able to bring a packed lunch to school or have a hot dinner as usual (Grab and Go bags from the new menu). They must bring a named water bottle to school. The children will eat their lunch with the children from their own 'class bubble' in their own area of the hall or in class (this will be run on a rota). Tables and chairs will be cleaned between groups in the hall. The children eating school dinners will sit down in the hall and have their meal choice brought to them, to restrict movement. Toast will not be served initially but children may continue to bring their own healthy snack in.

**The deadline for confirmation of school dinner requests has now passed.** As usual, pupils can now only change from school dinners or vice versa at the start of a new term or half term (with notice given to Mrs Cranmer in advance). If we have not received a response, we have assumed that your child's dinner arrangement will remain the same as it was before the lockdown began.

### Resources

More resources will be shared again as they are now deemed critical for teaching the curriculum. In the main, items used for learning within their own class bubble or within a blob, will be cleaned at intervals but shared solely within those spaces. Resources that are used throughout the school, eg. laptops, PE equipment, etc, will be thoroughly cleaned before a new class uses them or stored to decontaminate before being used by a different blob.

In Junior classes, all pupils will have their own pencil case. **Ideally, pupils should bring their own, but it must stay in school.** It should contain the following\*:

- School writing pencil
- Rubber
- Short ruler
- Small selection of coloured pencils
- Enclosed pencil sharpener

\*Pupils will be given these items if they do not have them

### Uniform

[Full school uniform](#) must be worn. Guidance now states that, 'There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in a school. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often or differently than usual.'

In a change to the policy, on PE days, **PE kit should be worn instead of uniform** so that it does not need to be stored in school and pupils do not need to get changed. **All pupils should follow the junior section of the policy and wear tracksuit bottoms and trainers.** School jumpers should be worn on these days, not hoodies etc. We are awaiting guidance on bare feet being used for gymnastics activities and may require pupils to leave a pair of pumps in school instead – we will update parents as soon as we have this information. Class teachers will inform you of their PE days once the year has started.

### Hand Sanitiser

Alongside opportunities to wash hands at sinks, hand sanitiser will be used regularly as this can be more freely available. Younger pupils should not bring their own and will be provided with sanitiser when required but we would like to trial Year 5 and 6 bringing a small bottle (to be named and left in their tray) should parents wish to do so.

### After School Clubs

For the first half term, after school clubs run by school staff will be suspended but we will keep this under constant review as we know how important an aspect of school it is – as well as being very enjoyable for pupils and staff!

*Lots of these elements are open to change as we assess the impact of them over the course of the first few weeks and, hopefully, the arrangements (especially around drop-off and pick-up) become slicker. Thank you for all of your support and understanding as we are aware that some arrangements currently require adaptations from parents, as well as the changes that staff are making in school.*

*It will be wonderful to see everyone again next Thursday (and our new starters the week after). There will be further communication prior to school returning.*

Enjoy the rest of the holidays,

Mr Wright