



Moss Side Primary School
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Lancashire
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Headteacher: Mr A Wright

28.08.2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

As promised, here is further information ahead of the return to school. All of the measures put in place will continue to be reviewed during the term as we see the impact of pupils and parents returning. Most importantly, in whatever we do, we hope to keep school as normal as possible for pupils as we still want children at school who are happy, settled and capable of fulfilling their potential.

Although it continues to be strange for all of us, I know the vast majority of our pupils are eager to return and we certainly are as a staff team.

Illness

All parents must make note of the following important information:

- No pupil with any COVID symptoms should attend school – they should isolate and parents should arrange a test ASAP.
- If any child falls ill in school, they will be isolated. Parents will be expected to collect them immediately.
- We will be following National Health Guidelines regarding any reported illness. In a case of confirmed Covid-19, you will be informed and Public Health England advice will be followed. For example, this may involve a year group or year groups needing to self-isolate for the recommended time.
- If your child is unwell, please let us know in the normal manner, by ringing school, with details of their symptoms/illness. This is even more important than usual so that we do not confuse any other illness with a suspicion of COVID-19.

Classroom Layout

We have reviewed all of our classrooms in order to maximise space as much as possible. This is particularly challenging for us as a school, due to the high pupil numbers in each class (particularly in Juniors).

In Infant classes, we consider it more practical for pupils to continue to learn in an environment as close as possible to the usual one and therefore group tables, carpet spaces, continuous provisions/play etc will continue in most rooms. Putting rows in place, for example, would mean that there would be no room for a carpet space, both for teachers to talk and teach pupils and for pupils to play.

In Junior classes, where pupils work at desks for longer periods of the day, we have removed group tables wherever possible and arranged pupils so that they are sitting in horseshoe designs or rows of tables. These classrooms have been adapted by taking into consideration the best way to balance a welcoming environment conducive to good learning, with taking measures to support reducing the risk of transmission.

These layouts are also balanced with the overall strategy of keeping the same children together at all times. The arrangements will be kept under review concerning supporting the overall risk reduction but also the impact on



behaviour and learning – it is really important that all of our classrooms are appropriate for the needs of pupils at Moss Side and they must continue to function for primary school pupils.

Travel to School

The Government has continued to ask that, wherever possible, pupils and parents walk to school. As a school, we understand that this is not always practical for a variety of reasons, but please remember that, if you must drive, you should park considerately. It is more important than ever that the staff car park is driven into by parents (even to turn around in) as it is now a pedestrian walkway as well.

Staffing

Many of our staff work in different classes. This will be reduced to staff only working within a blob as much as possible, but some staff may need to work across different groups (to cover absence for example). Where staff deliver across blobs, they will be encouraged to socially distance as much as possible. This is likely to be more possible in Junior classes. Music lessons in Juniors will hopefully continue, but decisions as to what this will look like will be made nearer the time and following advice from the Local Authority. Unfortunately for parents, there will be no or limited face-to-face communication with staff, both class or office based. Communication will need to take place, wherever possible, through Class Dojo primarily.

Hygiene

All staff and children will be directed to wash their hands frequently during the school day. Designated toilet cubicles will be assigned to each blob to use, although sinks will be shared to maximise the spaces where washing hands can take place. There are also a variety of wall mounted and portable sanitisers available. Junior pupils are able to bring a handheld bottle of sanitiser, to be left in their tray or bag but should be reminded that this is for their own use only.

Curriculum

We plan to revisit many key areas over the first half term of our new school year, yet plan to proceed with the curriculum as soon as we can. We know we will need to be mindful in ensuring any gaps in knowledge are filled in the most effective way we can. We will also focus time on ensuring that pupils feel comfortable again, understand routines and are active.

We may modify some subjects, certainly to begin with, to allow us to focus on these areas. Your child's class teacher will inform you, in the coming weeks, of the best ways that you can support your child at home.

School Bags

Please limit what the children are bringing in to school, to avoid cross contamination. The children will only be allowed to bring essential items to school - water bottle, packed lunch, reading books. Sun cream, if necessary, should be applied before the start of the day as usual.

It remains Government guidance for masks not to be worn and it is parents' responsibility, should they decide pupils wear them for any reason on the way to school, that they remove them safely prior to entering the school premises.

Ventilation

The building will be well ventilated by having windows and doors open wherever possible. This should be kept in mind, especially as the weather becomes cooler, and pupils may wish to wear an extra layer (t-shirt or vest) underneath their school uniform at that point.

It will be wonderful to see all of our returning pupils on Thursday.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Wright