

Moss Side Primary School

www.mosside.lancs.sch.uk

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Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Moss Side Community,

We have managed a full week in school! I sense relief from parents, joy from pupils and (although we are tired) delight from staff that we have been able to do something that we have not managed since mid-March. As we have said, we will continue to adapt what we are doing to balance reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission, with providing a positive learning environment and still feeling like our usual happy school.

Our new look newsletter has some of the changes we have made, with some reminders and other news...

Times of the School Day

Thank you for all of your support with the adjusted times for pick up and drop off. This has really helped to reduce the number of people on the school site at one time and is crucial in helping to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 within our community. As we said from the beginning, we have reviewed this to see if we could make some times closer together to support families. Next week, we will try a slightly shorter period of time at the start and end of the day. It is really important that everybody keeps to their times as much as possible to avoid crowds of people and the main gate **will not open until 8.45.**

Miss Jones	Mr Gilvead	Mrs Simpkins	Mrs Mckenna/ Mrs Glyn	Mr Kellett	Miss Thomas	Mrs Torbett
8.55	8.50	8.50	8.55	8.55	8.50	8.50
3.10	3.05	3.05	3.15	3.15	3.10	3.10

We will continue to allow siblings on the junior side of the building to enter school grounds at the same time. Please remember, where possible, that only one adult should collect from school and everyone should follow all walkways and one-way systems. The main purpose of this hard work is to reduce the chance of an outbreak which would lead to a partial or full school closure.

Class Dojo

We are now in a position where several of our classes have 100% of families signed up to Class Dojo. This is brilliant and means that we can continue to communicate with parents as best we can. From Year 1 upwards, your child's class teacher will have posted this year's version of 'Meet the Teacher' - where you will have an opportunity to be introduced to them (if you are not already familiar with them) and also receive important information about your child's

class and routine. It is really important to read and/or watch carefully as this information is likely to be different from other years. We are still in a position where we are trying to work out the best way to manage some areas of school life, such as sending and receiving homework, but your child's class teacher will keep you updated.

It is also important to have the notification setting on as your child's teacher may message you. You can also message school staff through Dojo because we wanted to ensure that we could still find a way to run a virtual open door policy. Please bear in mind that staff do not have the capacity to check this constantly while teaching during the day and teachers work a variety of different hours outside of the school day planning and preparing. We will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as possible but it would also help to use this messaging service for important information after having checked that previous Dojo posts or school website pages do not already answer the question you may have. I am also continuing to stand at the front of school in the morning should I be able to help you with your query (fingers crossed the weather stays fine)!

Food and Drink

School meal choices are now set for the half term. Please remember that packed lunches are 'healthy' and I leave it up to parents and pupils to work out a sensible definition of this.

Please remember that Juniors may bring a snack for break but this must be **fruit or vegetables only** (carrot sticks, apple etc), rather than biscuits or chocolate. Infants, as of Monday, should not bring any snacks as the fruit delivery has returned.

All pupils should bring a water bottle—including school dinner pupils who will need this at lunch if they are eating in class.

School Admissions 2021/22

Parents have from now until to 15th January 2021 to express their primary school preferences. Please note that the application deadline for **secondary schools is 31st October 2020**. Applications can be made at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

We will announce visiting arrangements for potential Moss Side 2021 EYFS pupils soon.

First Aid

As previously, we will continue to notify parents of bumped heads through a letter home - please check bags carefully. Although we are trying to reduce the number of items going home (and coming to school) we feel this is too important to risk not informing parents. As always, staff will use professional judgment to work out whether there is a need to inform you about any first aid your child might have received during the school day- significant events will be communicated immediately and/or at the end of the school day. Again, it might be that a member of staff communicates any injuries through Dojo so please check your message settings.

Stars of the Week	
	
Miss Jones	Kai Mathewson for doing his coat all on his own and a brilliant start to school.
Mr Gilyead	Freddie Nicholson for making a great start to his new class.
Mrs Glynn/ Mrs McKenna	Layton Brown for an excellent start to Y3 and for trying his best in everything he's done.
Mrs Simpkins	Jacob Knapton for a great start to Y2 and some lovely work.
Mr Kellett	Christie Allard for writing an excellent letter to a special person this week, nominating her Dad. This was a task from the Oliver Jeffers Here We Are unit.
Miss Thomas	Oliver Owens-Crook for writing a brilliant poem about his favourite place.
Mrs Torbett	Ella Taylor for making a superb start to Y6.
Winning House	Blue

COVID-19 Illness

Should your child develop any of the main three symptoms of COVID-19 (new, continuous cough; high temperature; loss of taste or smell) they will not be able to attend school. Family should follow public health advice and households should self isolate, book a test for members of the house with symptoms and keep school informed of the test date and outcome. All absence, whether COVID-19 related or not, should be communicated to the front desk via telephone. At present, I would encourage parents to err on the side of caution with any illness and if you are unsure if your child is well enough to attend school it might be best to keep them at home and observe further (this goes against our usual principles and is only a temporary arrangement).

If any tests come back positive I will hold conversations with Public Health England to decide which bubbles would be required to isolate and stay away from school. It is likely, in this event, that such a closure will need to be arranged quickly and we will inform parents via DoJo. Staff are currently making arrangements for how best to support learning from home should this happen, as these closures have already happened at schools in the local area since the start of term.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Wright