

Moss Side Primary School

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Friday 18th September 2020



Dear Moss Side Community,

It has been a challenging week for us in school with the issues that I outlined on Wednesday but staff and pupils have risen to the occasion (yet again). I know so many of you have also been affected by the issues around testing this week but your patience and resolve to follow the rules has been admirable—thank you. We know that we are still in this battle for the long haul but we must continue to work together to overcome the hurdles, old and new. As always, being around our pupils is enough to lift the spirits of anybody!

Times of the School Day

A gentle reminder that 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**.

Mrs Swift	Miss Jones	Mr Gilvead	Mrs Simpkins	Mrs McKenna/ Mrs Glynn	Mr Kelllett	Miss Thomas	Mrs Torbett
9.00	8.55	8.50	8.50	8.55	8.55	8.50	8.50
3.15	3.10	3.05	3.05	3.15	3.15	3.10	3.10

Please could parents **avoid stepping inside the main gate** (unless you wish to wait and speak to me) and **waiting in front of the railings** to drop off pupils, instead preparing for 'goodbye' as you walk towards school and leaving pupils to walk in—this avoids turning against the traffic. **It is also important, at the end of the day, that everyone follows the one way system and maintains social distancing.** It might be considered 'just another set of rules' but they are in place for the safety of all and we have been asked by Lancashire County Council to provide a safe site for all those collecting pupils. It is easy to become blasé but it would be frustrating to have an outbreak linked to parent transmission given all the efforts that staff and pupils are undertaking during the day.

Class Dojo

If my earlier comment about Wednesday's message has confused you, it might be that you missed a Dojo notification. Please make sure that you have alerts set and read any important information that is posted—for now it has become our main source of communication.

Ukulele

In a change for this year, Year 4s instrumental tuition will be ukulele this year rather than brass instruments (apologies to

those who have been treated to rather louder instruments in recent years). They will start on Monday.

Earrings and Jewellery

Parents and pupils are reminded that earrings are not suitable for PE and ideally should be removed but as a minimum taped up. Consequently, we have always requested that any ear piercing happens during the school holiday to avoid there being any issues with this for PE. No 'dangly' earrings are permitted in school at any point as a safety precaution.

The Lancashire risk assessment for PE also makes clear that all other jewellery should be removed or secured—it is for pupils to safely store watches etc and nothing unnecessary should be worn in school. This is to stop the risk of cutting others, choking hazards etc.

Toys

Mrs Swift and Miss Jones are asking for donations of hand sized toys such as cars, trucks, trains, action figures, dolls, ponies and animals. This is instead of toys being brought in from home and shared at break.



Instead, staff will keep these toys in their bubbles.

Home Learning Support

The volume of pupils needing to isolate due to COVID, or perhaps more pertinently the duration of this due to inadequate testing, has seen us accelerate our plans to provide some home learning in these cases. From early next week, should your child be unable to attend school due to COVID isolation, there will be work sent to you via Class Dojo by Mrs Berry (she will be in touch within the first 24 hours). Please note we will not be able to provide this for any other absence as the assumption is that—if you are not in school—this is because you are not well enough to access

New COVID-19 Restrictions

New COVID-19 restrictions look set to be introduced in Lancashire and other parts of the north west over the weekend. We will read these and interpret if they have any significance on current school arrangements but, at present, all of the authorities for schools are clear that they wish schools to remain open as much as possible.

formal learning that day (you could still read, revise maths facts etc though if you can). We will try, but nothing can replicate face-to-face teaching although we hope to offer some support to mitigate the disruption to education that COVID continues to cause.

Supporting Your Child's Education

Your child's class teacher will have sent you 'Meet the Teacher' information and will have explained some of the ways that you can support their learning. Now, more than ever, your support at home will be crucial to making up the gaps in learning caused by the closure. At present, we are heavily focussing on developing **reading** as this is the key to unlocking the rest of the curriculum. As anticipated, it is also the area which has suffered the most from the school closure. Key ways to support your child include:

- Read their school book with them daily.
- For older pupils, who are more fluent, it might be encouraging them to read a book from home and then asking questions about the text and/or asking them to summarise.
- Practise with key word flash cards or phonic sounds (particularly Infant pupils). Purple Mash, for example, has some excellent phonic resources—your child's class teacher will be able to guide you to which phase

 Stars of the Week 	
R	Lottie Brown for joining in with all our activities and for sharing and being kind to others.
R1	Theo Bates for being amazing at completing tasks in Discovery Time, super reading and being kind to others!
Y1/2	Kiera Prescott for settling really well in her new class and having a great week!
Y2	Elizabeth Teslim Balogun for having wonderful manners all the time!
Y3	Ella Mae Merrill for beautiful presentation of all of her work which she achieves because she listens so carefully and always tries her best. She is such a good role model for her class!
Y4	Lucas Williams for his enthusiasm, good manners and a great start to Y4.
Y5	Lowri Whittaker for always being ready and working with a smile!
Y6	Joe Marquis for showing real determination to improve his PB in PE.
House	Green

of Letters and Sounds is most suitable for your child.

- Share stories—nothing beats a good bedtime story.
- Listen to audiobooks.

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. Families 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). Please reference the flowchart sent out via Dojo if you are unsure what to do.

If any tests come back positive it will require at least one bubble, or in some cases a blob, to isolate and stay away from school: in Mrs Swift and Miss Jones' class, for example, given the nature of our department it is probable both classes would need to isolate should there be a positive tests. It is likely, in this event, that such a closure will need to be arranged quickly and we **will inform parents via Dojo.**

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Wright