

Moss Side Primary School

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Friday 2nd October 2020



Dear Moss Side Community,

As we reach the beginning of October, I would like to pay tribute and say my thanks to our staff team. They continue to work incredibly hard in extremely difficult circumstances, where every action that would be deemed 'normal' needs to be considered. They also share the same anxieties, frustrations and concerns that we all feel at present yet, despite this, are continuing to strive to create an environment which allows our pupils to be safe, happy and developing. It may look straightforward but, I assure you, there is a lot of work that has gone on and continues to go on in order to get the balance right between reducing COVID risks, providing a stimulating environment for learning and making it practical in a primary school. We will continue to try our best to make the best of this for our pupils! I know, having spoken to so many of you, that lots of you share this appreciation and I know that the staff team are buoyed by this.

House Captains

Last Friday, all those Year 6 pupils who wished to stand as captains for this year delivered their speeches to the rest of their house. As a class they were outstanding and I was incredibly proud that, despite six months away from school, the confidence to stand up and speak in front of others has not been lost. It was a very tight call but this year's captains are:

House Captain

Red - Alfie Wilson + Poppy Kershaw

Yellow - Joe Marquis + Eve Robinson

Green - Molly Key + Taylor Kendall

Blue - Martha Brown + Adam Renke

Sports Captain

Red - Ella Taylor + Scarlett Halliwell

Yellow - Leilah Doyle + Kyle Mason

Green - Layla Topping + Kayla Pearson

Blue - Courtney Baron + Kaydon Sarti

Dojo Messages

We are really pleased to be able to use Dojo as a communication tool in an attempt to maintain our 'open door' policy in a safe way. However, it is really important that this is used respectfully, remembering how hard staff are already working and that the more time they spend replying to messages, the less time they have to prepare for and assess



teaching of all pupils. In that spirit, please reflect on the importance of the message, the time and whether it is necessary before sending, so that staff do not spend an inappropriate amount of time replying. For older pupils in particular, we do not want Dojo to replace the expectation that pupils discuss issues or questions with staff first, rather than parents doing this for them in trivial matters.

Mental Health

At this challenging time, the mental health of all is more important than ever. The NHS has provided some support for parents who would like to find out ways to help their children in this area at <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/>.

Reading

As you know, we are trying to have a major push on reading in order to support our pupils in their return to full time education. **Your support in this area is key.** You can help by:

- Reading with your **child every night** - experience tells us that this is the biggest one thing that impacts on pupil's learning. For older pupils on 'free readers' this might be encouraging them to read and then discussing their book.
- Sharing stories 'just for fun', especially a good bedtime read. If you have not got lots of books at home to read, there are lots of free versions online, such as at <https://sooperbooks.com/bedtime-stories/>
- Exploring words all around us: identifying words in supermarkets, on signposts, on instructions etc; discussing the meaning of different words; creating

New EYFS Visits

We are, unfortunately, unable to offer new families a visit during school time ahead of the Primary Admissions 2021 but we are hoping to offer a chance to look around school after school. For further details, please encourage any interested parents to email bursar@mossside.lancs.sch.uk

mind maps and word clouds for topics or feelings.

- Encouraging your child to write their own story or poem so that they can share it with others at home or relatives via Zoom.

Keeping Warm

We continue to be advised to keep a steady flow of fresh air in school as much as possible. Although understandable, this causes some issues as the temperature begins to drop. If pupils have felt cold this week, it is advisable to ensure that they have an additional layer underneath their school uniform (vest, plain t-shirt, sports base layer etc). If teachers identify that their classroom is particularly cold in certain places, they may inform their pupils to bring in additional items. Pupils will also continue to need a suitable coat and possible gloves and hat to use at breaktimes.

<i>Stars of the Week</i>	
	
Mrs Swift	Liam Brown for being brilliant at tidying up and for being helpful and kind and helping his friends tidy up as well.
Miss Jones	Amelia Wood for being calm all the time, having a big smile and being kind to others.
Mr Gilyead	Anthony Bibby for always having lovely manners.
Mrs Simpkins	Coby Campbell for really trying hard and producing a wonderful piece of writing.
Mrs Glynn/ Mrs McKenna	Sadie Wood for always following 'The Moss Side Way'.
Mr Kellett	Kaci Cuerden for her excellent attitude to learning and always being helpful towards others.
Miss Thomas	Logan Campbell for being focussed in Maths and working well during his Science investigation.
Mrs Torbett	Dylan Gregory for making a great start in Year 6.
Winning House	Red

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.**

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