



Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Moss Side Community,

This is a slightly shortened version of the letter, following what has felt like an extremely long week. Yet again, I thank our parents for their support and understanding as we try to cope with the thousands of 'what ifs' caused by the current pandemic. This is version three of the letter!

Please remember what we continued to reiterate during the spring and summer closure - be kind to yourselves and others. This is not easy for any of us, as we enter the ninth month of significant disruption. Take time, as families, to reflect on what you have achieved, the hurdles you have overcome and the resilience that you have shown, especially when you feel as though this is all a bit 'too much'. I know I appreciate those who remind me of that - the staff team, my family and many of our parents, who take time to support us. Sticking together as a whole community will get us through these bumps.

## **Bubble Closures**

As you will be aware, we have been required to close bubbles in Juniors for the next two weeks, after conducting an extensive further assessment following positive cases in school this week. I have received confirmation that Year 3 and 5 will return to school **Wednesday 2nd December** and Year 4 and 6 **Thursday 3rd December**.

We knew that this would happen eventually - as one parent commented 'we have had a good run' - but it is still frustrating for everybody as a school, albeit an inevitability of the current pandemic.

In addition to the information about COVID illness on page 2, I feel it important to share with all parents the messages sent to Junior pupils this week about our positive cases in staff and pupils:

Without wishing to shift the clear message about the three symptoms for COVID, I feel it important for parents to know that our positive cases in the Juniors this week have (at least to start) shown symptoms more aligned to a cold. I know many of our pupils have complained of headaches, sore eyes, tiredness etc. in the past few weeks and it might be that, if you are unsure if these are COVID related, to err on the side of caution. It is also very important that we are informed if any of our pupils develop symptoms and test positive, even when they are not in school over the next few days.

I appreciate the understanding of our parents as we grapple the complexities of the situation to ensure, as best we can, the safety of both pupils and staff.

## **Home Learning**

For those bubbles isolating, staff will provide home learning via Class Dojo. It is really important that pupils access this regularly, so that they can be given explanations, encouragement and a chance to share their work via Dojo. There will also be opportunities for the class to 'get together' virtually and we do not want anyone missing the times. Class staff are available to contact via the messaging service on Dojo if pupils or parents need any help.

My biggest tip is to try and find a routine that works for you - break up any work into small chunks and allow pupils a reward/ rest for completing. For example 40 minutes maths might be followed by 20 minutes TV, before starting some English. In school, we would not expect children to focus solidly from 9.00-3.15, hence why we build in break times, activities, assembly etc. The PE resources shared in the summer (still available on the resources section of the website) also have some great home challenges/ activities that pupils might want to try during the day.

## **Competition**

Our Junior colouring competition will continue but we will adjust the deadlines. A reminder of the rules from our House Captains are below:



Junior pupils can enter the colouring competition. The rules are to draw a picture of your feelings in lockdown [e.g. if you got a bike for your birthday you could draw a bike]. We will have 3 winners for each year group [12 winners

## **Jamie's fact of the Week**



**Will return soon...**

altogether]. On the back of the paper you need to put your name and a small paragraph of what the picture is about and your year group. Make sure you do your work solo.

Those classes at home could use this time to perfect their entry!

### **Christmas Lunch**

Our Christmas lunch will be on Monday 14th December in the form of a Christmas Grab Bag. All children who have this option currently, will automatically receive it. Children who bring their own packed lunch have been contacted via ParentPay or email with details of how to book if they would also like to have this option on that day. The deadline for booking is next Tuesday, November 24th.

<i>Stars of the Week</i>	
	
Mrs Swift	Alfie Forgione for some excellent letter formation!
Miss Jones	Trinity Murphy for settling back into school and trying her hardest in phonics!
Mr Gilyead	Alfie Sherlock for great maths work this week.
Mrs Simpkins	Elliot Bibby for some great writing about the Diwali story this week.

### **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.**

stay safe,

Mr Wright