

# Moss Side Primary School

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Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Moss Side Community,

The news of a further lockdown has undoubtedly unsettled many of us but hopefully, as the news sinks in, we will once again grit our teeth and continue to do the best that we can do to help each other as a community. It is challenging - I am aware of many people finding the lack of light at the end of the tunnel difficult - but, as a school, we will continue to be a place where the greatest lights in our community can attend, learn, grow and be happy. Our children have developed their resilience and continue to be a wonderful source of hope. As I have said throughout - we will get through if we keep pulling together.

## COVID Measures

As mentioned previously, any adaptations to the COVID risk assessment will continue to be uploaded to the website (changes in yellow). The latest version has further slight adjustments, including:

- Singing in the hall (for an individual bubble only) - we feel that this is an important part of the curriculum and provides an important health and wellbeing benefit for pupils.
- **Parents/ guardians are (as of Monday) actively encouraged to wear a mask** when entering the school grounds and/or dropping off at 'pinch points' such as the front gate. We have been asked to remind parents again of the importance of social distancing at all times and only arriving at required times.
- Staff have the option to use a face shield within school if they feel it worthwhile - you may see these more often on the premises at the start and end of the day.

## Parking

Although our focus has largely been on COVID safety at the start and end of the day, please can parents again be aware of our neighbours and considerate when parking cars. Please do not block driveways and/or park opposite (or on) the yellow zig-zag markers at the front and side of school. We are lucky to have long stretches of road near school which obstruct neither. Parking slightly further away also makes the immediate area around school less congested or, alternatively, walk if it is possible.

## Year 5 and 6 Sports

Year 5 will begin tag rugby sessions with a coach from South

Ribble Sports Partnership next week, which we are looking forward to. Unfortunately, due to the closure of the leisure centre, there will be no swimming until January at the earliest.

Both classes took part in the second South Ribble virtual event of the year this week as they participated in the 'Sportshall Athletics' - although we actually got a bit wet doing this outside! The pupils were impressive in their skills and got stuck in, despite the weather. Their results will be sent in to the overall competition, which other local schools are also taking part in.

## Online Safety

Unfortunately we have received reports this week of pupils being inconsiderate of each other online. Developing pupil skills in this area remains an important part of our curriculum but we also encourage them to work with adults at home as well by:

- Sharing any issues or concerns with a trusted adult.
- Encouraging them to hand in their phone or tablet so that a parent/ guardian can check their online behaviour and the behaviour of those that they interact with.
- Discussing with parents/guardians the content they are accessing so that apps and websites are age appropriate. For example, some pupils were reminded this week that **the age limit for Whatsapp is currently 16 years old.**

## Poetry Fortnight

We are promoting poetry throughout school over the next two weeks, culminating in a celebration next Friday

## Jamie's fact of the Week

### **What colour is a polar bear's skin?**

during our virtual assembly. Dylan, from our media team, has kept us informed of the efforts Year 6 are making:

For the next two weeks, we will be doing activities and competitions for Poetry Fortnight. We will be learning a poem for all the class and saying it out loud to other class and we will individually learn our own poems.

We have learned many different types of poems such as raps, riddles, rhymes and alphabet. We did posters of them too! My dad told me some very short poems. For example, Strickland Gillilan wrote a poem called Fleas and it has just two words: Adam Had'em. Also, William C Wilkinson wrote a poem called Tears: I. Cry. But the shortest one I know was a poem written by J W Curry and it was a one letter poem and the word was 'I' but it was dotted with his own fingerprint! But I don't think that is a real poem, do you?

#### **Poppy Appeal**

Although we cannot support this in our usual way, we will be giving Junior pupils the chance to purchase items (snap bands, zip tags etc.) from a class box every day next week. Pupils should bring in the recommended donation and all items must either be secured (on bags, coats etc.) or taken home as we cannot have lots of 'lost property' to return as in previous years.

 Stars of the Week 	
R	Oscar Bzuik for taking part and joining in with all our activities this week.
Y1	Sophia Thomas for putting her hand up to have a go and trying really hard in lessons!
Y1/2	Thomas Sherlock for fantastic story writing.
Y2	Ellis Walsh for always trying his best in everything we do!
Y3	Dominykas Alsauskas for a fantastic attitude across the curriculum!
Y4	Beth Campbell for always being considerate and helpful towards others.
Y5	William Welham for excellent group work about mythical creatures from Africa and super contributions in our Literacy discussions.
Y6	Kayla Pearson for some mature and thoughtful poetry work.
W House	Green

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

**Black! (Their fur is white, but the skin underneath is actually black)**

#### 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.**

Happy Friday!

Mr Wright