

Moss Side Primary School

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Friday 18th December 2020



Dear Moss Side Community,

Merry Christmas everyone! As 2020 draws to a close - a year I think we are all unfortunately unlikely to forget - it seems an opportune moment to say a big thank you and well done. As a school community we have battled through some of the most turbulent of times that Moss Side has ever known and come out still smiling. This has placed a huge strain on our way of life but the positivity of our pupils, support of parents and determination of our governors has been outstanding. We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated and resilient staff team who have continued to overcome significant hurdles to keep school open and try our best to provide an environment which allows pupils to learn and develop, as well as offering some stability. Hopefully 2021 will see a return to a more normal life, although we know there will still be some obstacles to overcome.

Christmas Events

We have attempted to inject some Christmas cheer into school this week and hope that all of the pupils have enjoyed the activities - they certainly look as though they have done.

We were even lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas this week, who was very disappointed to miss our Year 4 pupils. He left us with a selection box for every pupil (which he assured us had been left to decontaminate for a lengthy period of time). We have also pencilled in a little celebration when Year 4 return so that - hopefully - they are not too disappointed about missing the last week of term.

Productions

Pupils worked hard and, after several re-takes, edits and a lot of technical issues, both Junior and Infant Christmas productions are (hopefully) now available.

A huge thank you to all of the staff who orchestrated the performances and to Mrs Stephens who used her IT know-how to edit them together. We hope that you enjoy them.

You will receive a link and password via Class Dojo at some point in the next 24 hours. Please treat these in the same way as any videos taken at a live school performance - **they are for parents to view and should not be shared online or downloaded.**



Contact Tracing

Parents are reminded that, as a school, we still have a duty to act as the 'messenger' should there be any confirmed COVID tests within bubbles inside 48 hours from school closing today. The information was sent out in a letter posted on Dojo last week (prior to the reduction from 14 to 10 days).

As a reminder, here is the information again:

- Parents should contact school if a pupil tests positive following symptoms that emerged within 48 hours of pupils being in school (anything up until 3.15pm on Sunday 20th December). If symptoms occurred after that time, NHS Test and Trace will be the only point of contact.
- If there are any positive cases that came from symptoms within the 48 hour window, please message Mr Wright via Class Dojo messages. Please note that this procedure is only for the period immediately after school closes – when school is open, please use the usual contact routes.
- If a positive case is identified within a bubble, parents will be informed via Class Dojo. All pupils within that bubble, who have attended school in the 48 hours before any symptoms, would still be required to self-isolate for 10 days. The rest of their household can continue as normal. This follows the Public Health England procedure that has been in place since schools returned in September.
- Up to and including 24th December, school will

Jamie's fact of the Week

How many gifts are given, in total, in the song "The 12 Days of Christmas?"

conduct the contact tracing on behalf of Public Health England (as this is likely to be the latest test results that impact school are returned). After this point, school is not expected to be on call and NHS Test and Trace will deal with any positive cases (as these should not affect school directly). As always, we hope that this will not be necessary but want parents to be informed of the duty of care we have to pass on this information.

Competition Winners

A message from our house captains:

Dear Parents, Guardians and Pupils,

We are sure that you want to know who won the colouring competition so here are the winners:

Year 3 : Leo, Amber and Harriet for all doing Christmas inspired artwork.

Year 5: Drew for a cottage picture and Lavani for an inspiring 'Stay Safe COVID' art piece.

Year 6: Elicia for an outstanding image, Taylor for a 'No Sport' poster, which was fabulous, and Joe for an 'Anger' themed poster, which was very good.

We will judge Year 4 after Christmas.

Distancing in Playground

Unfortunately, the pandemic is unlikely to ease for the next few months at least. Parents are reminded that they must continue to distance from other families at the start and end of the school day, for the safety of all. In the Infant playground, please queue using the markers and leave school as soon as possible.

Dojo Messaging

A gentle reminder that our Dojo messaging tool is to bridge the gap left by not being able to have parents in to talk face-to-face on a regular basis. Please use the tool sensibly and be aware that staff are not available 24/7. With this in mind, the staff team will not be checking Dojo during their well earned two weeks away from school, which I know that you will all support and respect.

School Return

We close at 3.15pm today for the Christmas holidays and return Monday 4th January 2021.

Jamie's fact of the Week

364 gifts are given! (one partridge 12 times, two turtle doves 11 times, and so on)

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.**

Merry Christmas,

Mr Wright