



Friday 4th December 2020

Dear Moss Side Community,

It continues to be a strange time for all but we are trying to ensure that pupils continue to learn and thrive while they are at school. The shifts in the national approach and rules do mean that we are all constantly having to adjust our lives and I know that this is challenging for some, especially as we enter our ninth month of dealing with the pandemic. Within school, we are continuing to follow Government guidance to deliver a broad curriculum, whilst reducing some of the risk factors associated with the coronavirus as best we can. I know that closures, while containing some positives, pose challenges for parents and pupils in lots of other ways. We can only all keep doing our best to cope with what is put in front of us and work together to overcome the ongoing challenges.

Return of Classes

It was wonderful to welcome back our Juniors this week after two weeks away from school. Many of them have worked extremely hard during the closure and we have enjoyed seeing work on Dojo, as well as sharing some great Zoom calls.

We are all hoping that they will be our only closures for the foreseeable future but we must be realistic that it is likely to happen again at some point: Rates within South Ribble are rising and there are lots of schools, locally and nationally, with much higher rates of COVID related absence than we have so far had this term. It remains important to do as much as we can to make school an environment that reduces any potential spread, while still being a school where pupils are happy and able to learn.

Christmas

As we have already discussed, plans for Christmas at Moss Side will be significantly different this year and they have already needed to change from our initial Plan B! They may need to change again but, at the moment, we are aiming for:

- Every class will record and film a song*. Depending upon time, these will either be edited together or distributed separately via an electronic link to parents. Should you not have given permission for your child to be photographed or recorded on the 'Parental Consent Form for Photographs In School', we will be in touch to confirm that this is still the case in this instance.
- Christmas jumper day will be our charitable event for this Christmas (Monday 14th December). Pupils are asked to donate to the cause, in return wearing a

Christmas jumper to school (or other Christmas clothing or just Christmas colours if you do not have any of the first two options). There will be further details next week. We will also have Christmas dinner hot sandwiches that day, as well as watching an online panto.

- Christmas 'bubble' parties - pupils will stay within their class groups, playing some games outside or in the hall, before finishing with a party snack and drink in class.
- Christmas trail - a Christmas quiz based around the Moss Side grounds.



We are also trying to keep the amount of items transferring backwards and forwards between homes and school to a minimum so pupils will only bring home items that they have made and have been allowed to decontaminate for a period (although you may wish to leave these at the other end for a little bit as well). As we announced the other week, unfortunately this year we have decided not to swap Christmas cards within school and therefore request that pupils do not bring them in.

This is often a time of year when many families are generous enough to send in presents for staff. We have always appreciated the thought (while always hoping that parents do not feel 'duty bound') but this year would request that this tradition is paused at least - we feel that you have enough to be thinking of, as well as maintaining

Jamie's fact of the Week
What was the tallest snowman ever?

our attempts to reduce the flow of items in and out of school.

*Singing will take place within bubbles only, in the hall or outside, as per the current risk assessment and Government advice.

Dinners

Please remember that any changes to dinner choices for next term must be with Mrs Cranmer by Thursday 17th December.

There is an adapted hot dinner menu, available via the website, for the final two weeks of this term.

Website

There are a few glitches in the website that we are trying to iron out, but it is still the place for curriculum information, important documents, key policies and risk assessments.

It is a boy!

To finish, we had lovely news this week that Mrs Berry had her second child. Arlo John Berry was born on Thursday, weighing 8lb 11 and both he and Mum are doing well. Congratulations!

<i>Stars of the week</i>	
YR	Paisley Mannion for some really good number work!
Y1	Lucie Bradshaw for always trying her best—even when she doesn't find things easy!
Y1/2	Ava Nicholl for being an extremely kind friend to everyone in her class.
Y2	Summer Maudsley for learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s which she couldn't do in September.
Y3	Kacper Dudek for a positive attitude in everything he does in school.
Y4	Chantell Hutchinson for making a great start back in school, answering questions and reading well.
Y5	Drew Walmsley for super work at home and in school this week!
Y6	Scarlett Halliwell for fantastic behaviour and being a wonderful role model!
WHouse	RED

Jamie's fact of the Week
**34 metres high! It was built in 1999 in
 Maine, USA.**

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