



Friday 2nd July 2021

Dear Moss Side Community,

It has certainly been another challenging week but at least it is Friday! Without wanting to sound like a broken record, I wanted to stress again how the feelings of frustration that I know many of you feel at present are reflected within the school staff team. None of our staff team want to have children at home (we love our job) any more than they want to isolate themselves. In the main, we have responded well to this pandemic as a whole community and it is really important that we continue to do so, as I have suggested further down this letter. The current challenge is to manage the last few weeks of term as best we can.

## Borwick

Last weekend was our annual Borwick visit (after missing last year) for our Year 6 children. Unfortunately, not every pupil managed to attend this year and they were sorely missed but I am pleased to say that the trip passed successfully once we made our way up the motorway. A big thank you to those staff who gave up their weekend for free to make the trip possible, which I know was appreciated by pupils and parents alike.

## COVID Testing and Isolation

It has become an unfortunate part of school life to send bubbles home to isolate - nobody wants to be in this position and I sincerely hope the current rules change soon. However, at present there is no official sign that things will change, certainly not between now and the end of term.

Therefore, there are three important steps that can be taken to try and support our school community to limit (although unfortunately not irradiate) the chances of more bubble closures:

- 1) Ensure that any pupils with symptoms isolate and book a PCR test immediately (a lateral flow might identify positive cases but it is **not** considered accurate enough to rule out COVID when there are symptoms).
- 2) Stay inside when isolating. This **includes all pupils who have been sent home as part of a bubble closure**. It has been hugely disappointing to find that a small minority of pupils are failing to do this, which risks further community transmission and the danger of more closures in the next few weeks. We know that it is tough but we must all follow the rules in order to stop the issue. It is also taking a lot of staff time away from the job of educating pupils to try and re-communicate this message.

- 3) Everyone is eligible for a PCR test as part of 'surge testing'. I would urge families to take these before any bubbles return so that we can try to avoid pupils returning with COVID and the same bubbles being sent home. **You do not need to isolate unless you have symptoms or are confirmed as positive.**

Given the media headlines this week, it is also worth reiterating how we (and most other schools) are attempting to manage the current rules: We will continue to do what we can but, under the current rules, the only way to deal with positive cases within primary schools is to send home all the pupils within bubbles as distancing is not practical or realistic for our pupils within their bubbles. In most cases (such as our current closures) the staff have been required to do the same, unless there has been a clear opportunity to distance - which is usually not possible over a sustained period of time.

## Wellfield Open Evening

Wellfield have arranged their open evening for Thursday 23rd September 2021 and are currently offering distanced tours. This might be of interest to our Year 5 pupils as they will need to make their high school choice in September.

## Clubs Next Week

Miss Clarkson's clubs will return next week but parents should be aware that they can only take place outside. Should there be poor weather, cancellations will be communicated via Class Dojo.

## PSHE

A reminder that the consultation on our updated PSHE curriculum closes on Friday 9th July.

## Jamie's Fact of the Week

**Pet snakes don't have the ability to love their owners, however luckily they realise it's not a good idea to try and kill you!**

Stars of the Week	
	
R	Alfie Forgione for brilliant use of all our phonic sounds in his reading.
Y1	Martha Prentice for brilliant phonics and for being enthusiastic about everything we do.
Y1/2	Avianna Karia for fantastic exploring in her garden!
Y2	Roman Wiggans Clarke and Daisy Hadley for doing very well with our assessments this week.
Y3	Ava Key for listening so carefully to instructions and always being so polite and respectful.
Y4	Declan Wilson for amazing progress with his times tables.
Y5	Lewis Bashforth for continuing to work really hard at home, just as he does in school! Isla Adams for continuing with her regular use of Reading Plus and achieving brilliant scores.
Y6	Kyle Mason for super leadership skills in Borwick. Scarlett Halliwell for always trying her best at everything she does.
W House	Green
Silver Leaf	Mikey Mallon—respect for others for showing great kindness and making birthday cards for others.

### 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 and should arrange for a full COVID test. *It is also advisable for pupils to not attend school should they be in any other way 'under the weather'.* 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