



Wednesday 21st July 2021

Dear Moss Side Community,

What a year! I want to return to my letter of Friday 20th March 2020:

'I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the magnificent staff who work here; they have put their own concerns aside over the past few weeks, performing their civic duties by focussing on keeping pupils calm and providing formal education for as long as possible. The support of so many parents, with words of encouragement and offers of help, are priceless. Thank you. We now appear to be on the cusp of a period of time where we are all being asked to show great restraint and responsibility in order to overcome the current global crisis. It is important that self-interests are put to one side and we support each other as much as we can. I know that Moss Siders have the resilience and selflessness to be able to achieve what we all want; rest assured that, although the school may not be present in the normal form, staff will continue to work hard to serve the community we care so much about. It is sad to close the doors to school today, albeit temporarily, but we can look forward to the joyous moment when we can return. I hope that our pupils and their families stay safe and look after one another over the next few weeks.'

Having read that again (rather late) last night, I feel that so many of the sentiments within it remain true. It has been a very challenging year (after a very difficult half year last year) but everyone within this community has pulled together to get us through. Things are, hopefully, looking up although I fear we might still be in for some rocky waters at times before we are completely over this storm.

To pupils, I wish them a summer where they can go out and enjoy themselves, making the most of what life has to offer between the ages of 4-11. They have been incredibly resilient this year and gone about everything they do with positivity and a smile, which goes a long way in life.

To parents, well done! You have born the brunt of this pandemic and done an amazing job in juggling work, home schooling, parenting and the uncertainty that the situation has caused. I have the deepest respect for what you have needed to do to keep your children the calm, composed individuals that they are.

To staff, my admiration and awe grows daily. Everything that has been thrown at them has been overcome, despite often being well out of comfort zones this year. We have always put our pupils first and made every effort to manipulate the situation to squeeze every ounce we can out of our school day and environment. I am really proud of the efforts that they have made as a team.

Everyone in our community should take a moment to reflect on what has been achieved and have a quiet smile. Well done and enjoy the sun!

Farewell

Today marks a sad day in the history of our school. As always at this time, we are forced to say goodbye to our Year 6 cohort. They have been a tremendous group, especially given the circumstances of the last year or so. They have shown remarkable resilience and we are delighted that they have been able to complete all of our normal (albeit slightly altered) leavers events to mark the occasion. This was completed with a wonderful 'festival' last night, complete with rendition of

Sweet Caroline. We know that, as a cohort, they will go on to further success at high school. The award winners from today are listed on the final page.

We are also extremely sad to see Mrs Heaton retire, after spending so much of her teaching career at Moss Side and providing hundreds of pupils with unique experiences which have shaped the way that they are as adults today. As a

teacher and deputy headteacher, her impact on school life is unquestionable and she leaves a legacy behind her of clogs, dances, performances, high aspirations and a spirit to give things a try. I know how valued she is within our community from conversations that I have with longstanding families. She will be missed by the staff team too, not least by me - her unseen work in supporting me has been invaluable over many years and I could not have done my job without her.

A message from Mrs Heaton

They say that "Time flies when you are having fun" and the time has certainly flown since I first joined the Moss Side team back in 1984! Even as a young and relatively inexperienced teacher, I recognised that the school was a very special place and I am so proud to have been part of the team which has helped build the school into what it is today .



I feel truly privileged to have had the opportunity to work so closely with two such inspirational head teachers, with an outstanding and supportive staff team, and with such amazing children and their families. After all these years I shall take away so many happy memories ... seeing smiling children running into school in the morning, smiling myself because a child has finally grasped a tricky maths concept, chatting to a parent who was once a child in my class, watching children performing on the stage or challenging themselves at Borwick ... the list is endless!

Moss Side has been a huge part of my life (and my family's!) and I would really like to thank the children, parents, governors and fantastic colleagues who have all contributed to the fun and happiness I've had working in the Moss Side community. It's certainly not easy to say goodbye, but I know it's time for my next adventure. I'm sure I'll be back in school at some point, but in the meantime I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and I hope you all have a lovely summer.

Morrisons and White Rose Maths

Parents and carers can collect the books from 26 July onwards at any of Morrisons' network of stores nationwide. All they need to do is to call in at the 'Children's Little Library' in their local Morrisons store during their regular shop, and collect their free copies!

Families are welcome to take one free copy per pupil from Y1 to Y6. The workbooks contain a link to the answers, too.

<i>Stars of the Week</i>	
	
R	All of the teachers in class would like to have our whole class as stars of the week. They have had a brilliant year!!!!
Y1	All of the teachers would love to have our whole class as stars this week. They have been simply amazing all year!!!!
Y1/2	Sienna Topping for great dancing in Dance from the Heart.
Y2	Ellie McCarrick for some lovely work in our safety project .
Y3	Boden Grimshaw for a positive attitude, lovely manners and a great year overall.
Y4	Jack Robinson for his excellent attitude, friendly manner and asking (and answering) lots of questions this year.
Y5	Lucas Fortune for thoughtful contributions to our anti-racism discussions.
Y6	All of Year 6 because they are absolute Superstars!
Silver Leaf	Ollie Brown - respect for others for showing the maturity, care and quick thinking to support a friend in danger. Harry Marquis - respect for others for showing great sportsmanship during our Sports Day.
W House	Red

Arrangements for September

As stated previously, there will likely be further updates in the week before school returns. However, we do feel confident to let parents know that the staggering of start/finish times will largely be dropped. This means that most classes will return to doors opening at 8.50 for an 8.55 prompt start to the register, although we will continue the arrangements for Infant pupils to be dropped off by lining up around the playground and Junior pupils at the main gate (which will not open until 8.45), as we feel that this has helped for a much smoother start to the day. The same procedures as now will be followed for collection, albeit with slightly adjusted times.

Junior classes: 8.55-3.15

Mr Gilyead/ Mrs Simpkins: 8.55-3.10

Mrs Swift/ Miss Jones: 9.00-3.15

End of Term

School closes at 3.15 today and returns for Years 1 to 6 on Thursday 2nd September.

Award Winners

NAME OF AWARD	CHILD'S NAME
Mullen Shield for Positive Attitude	Taylor Kendall
Cairns Caring Cup	Courtney Baron
Fairey Borwick Shield	Elicia Hill
Hazel Smith Progress	Kaydon Sarti
Jones Service to School	Martha Brown
Baybutt Academic	Alfie Wilson
Holmes Science	Jamie Meehan
Heaton Performing Arts	Ella Taylor & Molly Key
Alexander Sporting Shield	Layla Topping
Dunne Reading Role Model	Poppy Kershaw

Happy Wednesday/Friday!

Mr Wright