

Moss Side Primary School

www.mosside.lancs.sch.uk

[@mossideprimary](https://twitter.com/mossideprimary)



Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Moss Side Community,

There seemed to be enough important information this week for a lockdown version of the weekly newsletter. As I said last week, we are in no doubt about how challenging this situation is. I am aware of the effort and resolve required to make this situation work, from parents juggling a whole variety of responsibilities, to pupils needing to keep focussed and adapt, to the staff team who are working double shifts and some more again to provide teaching in an environment that, while not brand new, is still alien to what we are about as a school. Nobody could have dreamt this up twelve months ago but every week we overcome another hurdle as a community and hopeful a step closer to normality.

Zooms

The Zoom sessions for classes, focussing on wellbeing, have proved popular. We are trying to settle on a consistent timetable and there will hopefully only be a few adjustments next week as we adapt around lots of other considerations (staff availability, other timetables etc).

I would urge all pupils to join in. They are a great chance to see your classmates and to keep in touch with them.

Remote Learning

As I said last week, we have created a system for remote learning which deliberately provides flexibility for families and hope that all pupils can complete all of the work. We also know that, some days, the time available for some of the learning is more limited than others. It is still very important though to prioritise **English and maths** in order to keep pupils making progress in these areas and it has been pleasing how many pupils have consistently completed their English and maths exercises again this week. It will make a big difference when they return to school.

It is also great to see the work uploaded to Class Dojo so that we can assess how the children are doing. Some families may wonder why this matters but, not only do we have a duty to check how are pupils are progressing, it is really important because it allows staff to plan future lessons based on what they can see children have or have not understood. It also lets us give feedback and, with Junior pupils in particular, it is great when they are able to respond to that (just as they would in class). The ideal scenario is that this is uploaded every day (although, as we have said, we know that is not always possible) but certainly needs to be as regular as possible. In Juniors particularly, pupils are capable of doing this

independently in most cases - if there are problems, just let us know. We have deliberately tried to make the system simple - there is no need to upload files, a photo is more than good enough (but try to make it clear so that we can see the great work)!

Although we have continued to provide information about remote learning, there is a 'formalised' version of parent information available in the policies section of the website.

Support

We know that, despite trying to create the right balance, this situation remains difficult so, as we keep emphasising, keep talking to us if there are any issues or concerns. You can use Class Dojo to message teachers for support, email homelearning@mosside.lancs.sch.uk for technical support,



ring Karen for advice or phone school and speak to me. We want to help in any way that we can because the only way through this is to work together. Do not let issues build up or worries grow, whether they are linked to remote learning or otherwise; there have been lots of discussions between home and school in the last few weeks where just talking things through appears to have made a huge difference. If you are just having 'one of those days' let us know - we all know the feeling.

Staff COVID Testing

You may have spotted in the news that primary school

staff will begin regular COVID testing using tests that provide a result in 30 minutes. The aim is to start this nationally next week but this will depend upon the delivery of the test kits. Whilst it is a welcomed addition to our COVID procedures at school to protect both staff and pupils, as a significant number of COVID cases are asymptomatic (there are no obvious signs of symptoms), it will likely create further disruption to school life.

Any positive tests will still require all close contacts (including 'critical worker' pupils) to isolate for ten days. As you know, in most cases this means a bubble closing and those pupils isolating for ten days. Parents should be aware, if their child currently attends school for any part of the week, that the usual procedures (notification through Dojo) will apply and they should keep notifications on for this reason.

Year 6 Reading

Just before the lockdown (about 5 hours to be precise), we celebrated the commitment to improving their reading that has been shown by a lot of our Year 6 pupils. Special mentions went to Joe, Martha, Ieva & Ella who had read at home every day since the start of the school year. This not only shows how dedicated and committed these pupils are but will also have huge benefits in their education as they move forwards. Reading is the key to unlocking the curriculum at school and beyond.

Twitter

To stop the Dojo feed being clogged up (we know that there is a lot of information at the moment) we will still use Twitter

to try and retweet activities and events that might interest pupils and families. You can follow @mossasideprimary.

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