

# Moss Side Primary School

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Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Moss Side Community,

There is no doubt that this remains a very difficult period for everyone, where patience and resilience are called upon yet are at a premium. I want to take this moment to say thank you. Thank you if you are now an expert juggler and plate spinner. Thank you if you have supported your child to read, write or learn their times tables. Thank you if you are getting out of bed in the morning even though you would really rather pull the duvet back up and pretend that things are back to normal (I assume that is not just me at the moment). Thank you for providing love, care and stability to your children, in a world that still remains uncertain. If you are doing those things, and nobody else tells you they are grateful, then at least you have heard it from me! What you are providing for the children in your families and our community is incredible; it will be a moment to reflect on with pride once (hopefully not too far away) this begins to settle again.

## Wellbeing Focus

As next week is the last week before half term and we would usually have one of our special weeks, we thought we would have a "special two days" instead.

Consequently, your normal class plans will cover Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week, with Thursday and Friday being our special days (the plans for this will be sent out next week).

Our focus is well-being and is called "Top Tips to Keep Happy". There is nothing to stop pupils carrying on with the usual Maths and English consolidation activities from their plans, but the purpose of the days is to have a break from the current 'norm', focus on our own wellbeing and reduce some of the time spent in front of screens.

## Parent Calls

Many of you have been in regular contact with the staff team during this period anyway but, as we come to the end of the half term, teachers will make phone calls (mainly Thursday and Friday next week) to check in with our families. We would usually hold parents' evening around this time and feel it is important to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to talk to their child's class teacher.

## Remote Learning Feedback

We have appreciated all of the feedback that we have received about remote learning and, as you will have seen, have continued to try to evolve this wherever we can to

benefit our pupils and families. Whether you have discussed with staff already or not, there is a [short survey](#) available so that we can look into themes of positive aspects (that we do not want to change) and potential areas to develop.

## Dojo Posting

There continues to be a steady stream of portfolio posts which make it much easier for staff to plan future lessons, knowing what pupils have achieved. Thank you for all of your help in keeping this important part of remote learning going and please keep sending in work regularly.

## Return Date

You will be aware that 8th March is being widely discussed as a potential date for some form of school return. We are hoping that this will be given the green light, if it is deemed the right step forward. It is unlikely that I will be informed of the plans for schools sooner than you find out via the media but, if there are any decisions either way, I will ensure that you are kept up-to-date.

## INSET

A reminder that staff have an INSET day on Monday 22nd February for further training. This means that school (both critical worker and online provision) does not re-open until Tuesday 23rd February after the half term break.

## Staff COVID Testing

As discussed previously, regular testing has been introduced for primary school staff. This process started last week.

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.

## 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