

Moss Side Primary School

www.mosside.lancs.sch.uk

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Thursday 5th March 2021

Dear Moss Side Community,

It is wonderful to think that, by the time I come to write this letter again next week, the whole school will have returned. Whilst we will still need to continue to implement many of the COVID safety measures that we have put in place since September, I know that everyone will welcome the chance to return closer to normal. Again, I want to reiterate my thanks to all of those parents who have dug in and supported their child's education through this difficult period. Our children are remarkable and, whilst I know that the majority of pupils (and parents) have found this tough, they have continued to show incredible resilience. Resilience is also very much a theme of the staff team and I am extremely grateful for and proud of the way that they have managed the last nine weeks, dedicating themselves to keeping both virtual and physical teaching going. It has been - and will need to continue to be - a team effort from the whole community to see us through this pandemic.

Arrangements at the start and end of the school day

A reminder is attached of the school times for each class. All entrances and exits remain the same as before Christmas. It is really important that everybody keeps to their times as much as possible to avoid crowds of people and the main gates **will not open until 8.45.**

Mrs Swift	Miss Jones	Mr Gilyead	Mrs Simpkins	Mrs McKenna	Mr Kelleth	Miss Thomas	Mrs Torbett
9.00	8.55	8.50	8.50	8.55	8.55	8.50	8.50
3.15	3.10	3.05	3.05	3.15	3.15	3.10	3.10

We will continue to allow siblings on the Junior side of the building to enter school grounds at the same time. Other important points to remember:

- Where possible, only one adult should collect from school.
- Please follow all walkways and one-way systems.
- All adults collecting pupils should wear a mask (unless medically exempt) while on the school site.
- Social distancing should be maintained at all times. There are markings to support this on the Infant playground.
- At the end of the day, parents of Year 4-6 pupils may consider waiting away from school and allowing their child to meet them. For those pupils, being collected from the playground, please spread out and leave the

outside of the playground clear as a walkway. It is really important that younger siblings stay with parents and do not run around.

We have been asked to stress by Lancashire County Council, how important these measures are. Nobody wants to transmit COVID within our community and we do not want to increase the risk of bubbles isolating or return to whole school closures. *It is crucial that we all play our part.*

Food and Drink

School meal choices are now set for the remainder of the half term. Please remember that packed lunches are 'healthy' and I continue to leave it up to parents and pupils to work out a sensible definition of this.

Please remember that Juniors may bring a snack for break but this must be **fruit or vegetables only** (carrot sticks, apple etc), rather than biscuits or chocolate. Infants should not bring any snacks as the fruit delivery to school will continue.



All pupils should bring a water bottle—including school dinner pupils who will need this at lunch if they are eating in class.

COVID Measures

Within school, the main focus will again be on class 'bubbles' with fairly normal interaction and movement by pupils inside those bubbles in order to allow us, as a school, to focus on developing pupils' academic and pastoral education, with a particular emphasis on their emotional wellbeing. The risk assessment continues to be updated regularly and is available via the website.

Pupils are reminded to bring with them small backpacks to store only essentials in (reading books, lunch, drinks, suncream, hats etc). No toys or mobile phones should be brought into school at this time.

Lateral Flow Testing

A message from the Department for Education:

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, **who do not have symptoms**, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who

need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

The nearest site for us appears to be Leyland Civic Centre. Please check the [Rapid Test Collection website](#) for full details.

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day tomorrow. Pupils working at home and at school are invited to wear a book themed fancy dress as they work - keep it simple and it is completely optional.

Remember that staff are likely to be involved in preparing school for the full return so please be aware that Dojo communications might be more limited during the day.

If you have any good photos from the day (or any other point during this lockdown) please send them to wellbeing@mosside.lancs.sch.uk so that they can be used in our 'Remote Learning' display. This is also useful even if you have posted to Dojo as the pictures do not always download very easily.

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.**

Uniform

A reminder for parents that our new uniform supplier, Impressions, will be opening a shop in Leyland shortly, but there is an online 'click and collect' ordering system available from them while the shop is being fitted.

Our school uniform page is available via bit.ly/mossside.

Full details of the school uniform policy have been updated and continue to be available via the website.

Dinner Payments

For those children paying for dinner, it is really important that debts do not build up. Please remember to keep ParentPay accounts topped up so that dinner charges do not need to be chased up by office staff. We know that it is easy, especially at the moment, to forget (I often need a nudge with these things) but keeping payments up-to-date saves the administrative burden on the staff team. If any parents are having issues with payments, please let the office team know.

Have a lovely weekend when it arrives,

Mr Wright