

Moss Side Primary School

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Friday 25th June 2021

Dear Moss Side Community,

I think this week has possibly been the toughest since early January and I want to take a moment to reflect; COVID continues to place restrictions on our way of life and, whatever opinions there might be about the rules or systems in place, we continue to **be ruled by** the directives from the Government. We are in a particularly challenging situation in Lancashire, where numbers have risen dramatically in the last month **despite** more aspects of day-to-day life **having begun** to be less controlled.

In schools though, the measures remain largely the same and this means that we are always only one case away from shutting bubbles and isolating pupils and staff for ten days. This is not a position any school wants to be in - we want to focus on our job and get on with teaching the children.

I want to pay a special tribute to our staff who, despite the constant awareness about potential loss of freedom and the concerns for their own health, have continued to do everything they can for our children. No staff could have worked harder during this time and I continue to be proud of the efforts that they go to, especially now where the last salvages of energy are required to negotiate the end of the most tiring and challenging of all school years.

To you, as parents or members of our community, I urge you to keep going. I know how frustrating some of you feel about the requirements and restrictions in place to deal with the pandemic, but we must all hope that the finish line is truly in sight and that this is one last hurdle. Your support continues to keep this school going.

For all of us, the best models come from our pupils: resilient, bubbly and warm. Some may have concerns or worries, but all continue to make our school environment both bright and friendly. When my own frustrations are high, **your children** are at the top of my list which reminds me that **life** will get better.

Knife Crime

Junior pupils received an important and informative assembly from our local police team this week about knife crime. We hope that pupils took on board the message about their own and others' safety.

Clubs Next Week

None of Miss Clarkson's clubs will run after school next week. There will still be clogging with Mrs Heaton and multi-skills with Mrs McKenna.

PSHE

Mrs Heaton communicated via Dojo earlier this week that a parent consultation is open until 9th July about our updated

PSHE curriculum, including the relationships and sex education aspects. The current policy is contained in the curriculum section of the website, along with access to some of the 1Decision resources that support this.

Feedback can be given via the form which has been posted on Dojo.

COVID Testing

A repeat of the information communicated via Lancashire County Council last week:

- Lateral flow tests should **only** be used where there are no symptoms. If symptoms are displayed, pupils and parents must book a PCR test at a centre or order a home test kit.

Jamie's Fact of the Week

The Rhinoceros beetle is the strongest animal in the world, compared to size. They can lift things up to 850 times their own body weight!

- PCR tests are available to all in Lancashire, even without symptoms, as part of surge testing.
- 'If you or your child have other new or unusual symptoms or if in doubt, you can still get a PCR test. However, you do not need to immediately self-isolate for 10 days.' In this instance, you can request a test because your local council has asked you to. **We have asked several parents to follow this advice again this week for a variety of illnesses, due to the increase in the number of cases linked to our school community.**
- You must still isolate if you go for a test as a result of one of the main three symptoms (as must the rest of your house).

Stars of the Week	
	
R	Alby-Tosh Wilson for some super language work and for always doing his best.
Y1	Libby Burke for learning all her tricky words and high frequency words!
Y1/2	Kiera-Leigh Prescott for great tennis skills in PE.
Y2	Luca Kirkby for some excellent numeracy work this week.
Y3	Rosie Hadley for excellent hoola hooping skills and for being so kind in class.
Y4	Riley Cartmell-Brown for working hard and completing lots this week.
Y5	Jimmy Tillott for persevering with his fractions and spotting maths connections. Dylan Bretherton for great listening and a super, sensible attitude at swimming.
Y6	Borwick
WH	Red
Silver Leaf	Ellie-Mae Hillman-respect for others for helping a classmate when they were upset.

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