



Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Moss Side Community,

I am delighted to be able to write a Friday letter at the end of a week that has truly felt that we are nearly back to being a normal school community. Holding a whole school assembly on Thursday, for the first time since March 2020, felt like a truly significant moment. We know that COVID has not disappeared and that there are bound to be spikes in cases over the coming months, but we hope to keep things as normal as possible as much as we can this year whenever we are able to.

Smiling faces on children as they returned to school reminds all of us why the efforts that go into this job, both during the holidays to prepare and during term time, are worthwhile.

COVID Arrangements

You will have received information via Dojo earlier in the week re. school arrangements. This reflects the efforts to get back to normal as much as possible.

However, we have been asked to maintain some measures and one key aspect relates to symptoms and cases:

- As previously, any pupils showing symptoms of COVID must **go for a PCR test**. Lateral flow tests (30 minutes) are not sufficient in this instance.
- Where there has been a contact with a positive case, Public Health England are **strongly advising people to go for a PCR test**. You do not need to isolate during this time, unless the test result is positive.
- In school, **we will follow the above advice** and, should there be a positive case within a class, strongly encourage **all pupils within the class to go for a PCR test**. They do not need to miss any school during this process (and ideally should be booked for outside school hours). The theory is to quickly identify any positive cases to stop the spread so that no further measures need to be taken.

The whole country is entering a new phase of COVID management and we must continue to do as much as we are asked to do to help keep things as normal as possible and avoid any further restrictions returning.

Our COVID Contingency Plan (available via the website) outlines some of the measures we would take should there be a rise in cases, potentially returning some elements of bubbles for some groups. Any decisions would be taken in consultation with Lancashire County Council.

Meet the Teacher

We are planning to hold Meet the Teacher meetings after school on week beginning 13th September. Apologies that these dates were not available prior to summer, as we were unsure how these would work. Your child's class teacher will advertise their date via the Dojo page.

Dojo Messaging

A reminder that we have made the decision to stop using the Dojo messaging tool as an inbox for staff. You may see the messaging tool still available and might receive information via this but, in effect, these are unwatched inboxes now. Should you wish to contact your child's class teacher with a question or issue ideally please pop into school, or alternatively use the blue reading record book or phone. The Front Desk can often help with minor queries and I am always available (as is Karen) at the start of the day.

The reason for this is that we would really like to re-establish our open door policy and re-build face-to-face relationships with families as much as possible. There is also a consideration about the amount of time staff spend responding to messages, which cuts into their abilities to prepare lessons and often leaves them responding late at night (we have a highly committed team but I have a duty to make sure that their time is efficiently spent). If there are any urgent matters during the school day, ringing Front Desk has always been the only way to ensure that information is received.

As with everything, we will continue to review this to check that we have struck the right balance.

Class Times

A reminder for parents and pupils that Junior class doors open at **8.50 for an 8.55** start to the register. Infant pupils will continue to be dropped off by lining up around the playground. The main school gate opens at **8.45** and pupils should attempt not to arrive before then.

The collection routines remain the same as last year, with all Infant classes collected by queuing outside their door. Year 3 pupils should be collected from the Junior playground unless a prior arrangement has been agreed with Mrs Fahey. Years 4-6 will be sent from class independently and parents may collect from the playground or off site.

Junior classes: 8.55-3.15

Mr Gilyead/ Mrs Simpkins: 8.55-3.10

Mrs Swift/ Miss Jones: 9.00-3.15

Brownies

9th Leyland Brownies are to hold an open evening in the school hall on Thursday 9th September. Further details will be available via the Dojo page later.

 Stars of the Week 	
R/Y1	Rhyse Staples for settling in really well and talking to new people!
Y1/2	Eva Frogson for making a great start to her new class.
Y2	Callum Nicholas for really enjoying his first day in Year 2.
Y3	Hudson Jackson for super sitting and ready to listen as soon as the teacher speaks!
Y4	Leah-Mae Walsh for making an excellent start in Year 4.
Y5	Beth Campbell for following instructions well and starting straight away on some lovely pieces of work.
Y6	Lilly Ronald for coming back to school with a 'can-do' attitude.

Happy Friday!

Mr Wright