

Moss Side Primary School

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Friday 3rd February 2023

Dear Moss Side Community,

The week started with an extremely late night for thirty-one Junior pupils and several members of staff with a trip to Young Voices at Manchester Arena. Our choir were simply amazing and I wish that you could have all seen them perform in the incredible event. We will certainly have it in the school calendar again!

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evening appointment slips will now have been returned home. If you have not submitted a request, please write a note for your child's class teacher who will endeavour to find a suitable time.

Meeting with **parents for all pupils** is a crucial part of ensuring that your child gets the best education that they can. It is optional whether pupils attend or not.

Strikes

You will, of course, be aware of the national strike action taken by NEU teachers on Wednesday this week. There are also other proposed dates after half term, should both sides be unable to find a resolution.

Whilst we did not need to close classes for this first strike, I felt it important to communicate with parents that this does not automatically mean the same on future dates. The whole issue is a complex one and difficult to articulate in short soundbites. It also, undoubtedly, creates a wide range of opinion about how best to deal with it and can be seen within the context of lots of the frustration currently on show from public sector workers.

However, whilst trying to avoid being drawn into the rights and wrongs of strikes and school closures, I do think that there is a duty to express some concerns *I have* about our education system as a whole, which might shed some light on the thought process of some within the profession.

- School budgets are becoming increasingly tight, yet the need within schools is growing. In my experience, staff within schools care deeply about their pupils and grow increasingly frustrated that they have not got the resources to do the best for them.
- Workload expectations are high (and at times unmanageable), with staff unable to perform their responsibilities to the quality that they wish without significant work in evenings, weekends and holidays.

The risk of burnout amongst the profession is high.

- The education system has increased the high stakes nature of accountability, through SATs tests, phonic tests, multiplication tests, OFSTED visits. The pressure that is felt by staff (and pupils) is high and, in my experience, does not lead to better outcomes for our young people.
- A strong sense of central control and a removal of the freedom of individual schools and staff has engulfed the education system. From experience, the main concern for the future from highly skilled, experienced and capable staff, is that they do not always have the freedom to use their extensive knowledge and professional judgement to do what they know is right for their pupils.

I sincerely hope that, whatever the future holds, we can have an education system in this country that gives all the professionals working within it the best possible platform for them to work alongside our young people as they grow into well-educated, well-rounded human beings.

Young Voices

Wow! What a performance! A huge thank you to Mrs Lamb who has volunteered her time to organise the choir and polish up their performances. Another big thank you to Mr Gilyead, Mrs McKenna and Mrs Roscow who volunteered their time (and were still in work on time the next morning) to take the pupils.

Clubs

Please note that there will be no clubs next week due to parents' evenings and Book Week. Clubs will restart immediately after half term.

Book Week

- Scholastic Book Fair will visit Monday and Tuesday. Children will visit during the school day and can take parents into the hall after school to buy books. Books range from £2.99 - £7.99 (ish), with pupils allowed a maximum of £10 should they wish.
- Book Café is an opportunity for one parent/ grandparent to come into school, grab a drink (as well as a biscuit) and read with their child from a selection of school books. Do not worry if you cannot attend as our Year 6 pupils will step in and read with younger pupils at this point.

Tues 7th:

9-9.45 Y1/2

10 -10.45 Y2

11-11.45 Y6

1.45-2.30 Y3

2.30-3.15 Rec

Thurs 9th:

9-9.45 Rec/Y1

10-10.45 Y4

11-11.45 Y5

- Bedtime Story Day will be Friday 10th. Pupils should wear a (clean) onesie or PJs for the day and bring a teddy and favourite bed time story.
- We will also have book trails, 'The Masked Reader', visits from authors and a performance from Runshaw drama students.

Spare Clothes



We would welcome donations of underwear and tights for our Infant spare clothes box.

Half Term

School closes at 3.15pm next Friday and re-opens Tuesday 21st February.

Happy Friday,

Mr Wright

 Stars of the Week 	
Rec	Bruno for always showing respect to his teachers and peers.
Rec/ Y1	Isla K for always being a kind classmate and working really hard on beautiful pieces of work.
Y1/2	Oliver for always being a super kind and caring member of the class
Y2	Iris for always trying hard and giving her best even when it's not easy.
Y3	Ava for being a wonderful member of the class who always tries her best, even if it's tricky. Her writing this week has been fantastic.
Y4	Jessica for working hard with her writing to produce a great story this week.
Y5	Noah for consistently working hard in all lessons - particularly Maths and being able to explain his methods clearly.
Y6	Harriett for making superb progress in maths and always being a fantastic role model.
W House	Green
Silver Leaf	<p>Theo Y2 - Respect for Others - for helping out with 'Active Leaders' without being asked.</p> <p>Oliver YR - Respect for Others - for always zipping up other children's' coats before his own, so that everyone else is okay before he thinks of himself.</p> <p>Poppy Y1/2 - Respect for Others - for letting a classmate have a go at a game because she had already had a turn.</p>

Key events next week

Monday Book Fair

Tuesday Book Fair, Parents' Eve

Wednesday Parents' Eve

Thursday Swimming Y5

Friday

School Dinner Week: #1