

Moss Side Primary School

www.mosside.lancs.sch.uk

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Friday 21st April 2023

Dear Moss Side Community,

The sun has made a welcome appearance as we have come back to start our Summer Term. It has been a lovely week in school, with the pupils and staff arriving back refreshed and raring to go. We are excited to see what the final term of this academic year brings. We have started a new Mental Health project across school this week and the children have been learning all about how their brain works and responds to life's experiences. We are hoping, through discussion and journaling, that our pupils will really benefit from this new school-wide project.

Engineering Works

You will be aware that there are now engineering works outside school. Our understanding is that these should last around three weeks. During this period, we are aware that drop off and pick up arrangements might be challenging so please ensure that you take your time and park carefully - we would rather pupils be five minutes late than injured on the way to school.

It remains vital that we park respectfully as a school community and do not block the drives of our local residents. They are not always easy to spot around school, as many have large gates in front of them. Please use the long stretch of Paradise Lane and walk back to school wherever possible. It also remains critical that the yellow zig-zag lines are not used as a drop-off area, nor should cars be parked on these or opposite them, in order to allow pupils to cross the road safely.

Absence and holiday requests

Please could I take this opportunity to remind all families of the importance of high school attendance and the legal requirement for pupils to attend school. Holidays taken in term time are only authorised due to exceptional circumstances, as defined by the Government.

We know the challenges that this causes, in terms of families having the same leave and the significant financial implications of travel in holiday times (it is the same headache in the Wright house every year) but, as a school, we have a duty to communicate this and do our utmost to keep this standard.

One time of year when absence is particularly problematic, is during the period from now through to early June, as all classes will take part in some form of assessment. In Year 6 and Year 2 in particular, these are national, statutory assessments which pupils can not afford to be absent in the period before or during.

For our 'internal' assessments, it creates additional workload and disruption to pupils when they are absent from them and need to complete at a later date. This is why, although we always see parental fines as a last resort, we have consistently applied this procedure at this time of year for both Year 2 and 6 pupils meeting the criteria.

Parents are also reminded that requests for leave should be submitted for any leave and should be done so via the form in plenty of time to allow a response.

Clubs

There is no guitar or coding club next week, but the returning/new clubs are listed on the second page. Mrs Freeman posted the link for new clubs to Dojo earlier this week. Everyone who applied for a club has a place, the form will remain open until Monday.

Strikes

You will be aware from the news that the Government offer on teacher pay and working conditions was rejected. This means that the NEU has proposed further strike days of 27th April and 2nd May. As previously, I would urge all families to have a plan B for those dates as there is no legal obligation for union members to give prior notice of their intention to strike. Again, as previously, we will communicate via Class Dojo should any classes be closed at the earliest possible convenience but all other pupils should attend school unless otherwise informed.



It seems timely to communicate again that this is a difficult situation and not one that any member of our or any school community wishes to be in - pupils, staff or parents. However, it is unfortunate that there remain significant challenges in education that need to be resolved for the

good of this and future generations of our young people. Without getting into the pros and cons of strike action, it is important that all of the issues currently facing our schools are discussed and solved. You will, I am sure, have seen some of the extremely sad news surrounding schools nationally of late, alongside some of the other challenges, such as:

- The tightening of school budgets at a time when need within all schools is growing, due to the wide range of starting points that pupils have and support that they require. Staff who care deeply about their pupils are often frustrated (and anxious) that they do not have the resources to do the best for them, despite all of their efforts.
- Workload expectations have grown, with greater responsibilities put on all staff, without further time to do this. The risk of burnout remains high as staff work through evenings, weekends and holidays on a regular basis.
- There is a packed curriculum, with high stakes of accountability, through SATs test, phonic screening, OFSTED etc. This adds extreme pressure to a school community.
- A strong sense of central control and a removal of the freedom of individual school and staff has become the norm. Through discussion and observation, it is evident that the main concern for the future across school staff is that they have the freedom to use their extensive knowledge and professional judgement to do what they know is right for their pupils.
- All staff are impacted by the current debate, not just teachers. Our support staff work incredibly hard and are extremely dedicated - we are a team who all work under the same conditions.

Bank Holidays

School will be closed on both Monday 1st and 8th May for bank holidays.

|  Stars of the Week  | |
|---|---|
| Rec | Emily for always working hard and independently writing sentences. |
| Rec/ Y1 | Isla B for working so hard in Phonics and writing some super sentences in Literacy. |
| Y1/2 | Zach for having a great first week back at school. |
| Y2 | Liam for coming back after Easter with a much more positive attitude and making good decisions about his learning. |
| Y3 | Zavier for a positive attitude in his first week of swimming and always having lovely manners. |
| Y4 | Hanna for her excellent work in all her lessons and a mature approach to her learning. |
| Y5 | Rylea for always committing quickly to doing his work to an excellent standard. |
| Y6 | Evie for a superb 'can-do' attitude towards her work and wider school life. |
| W House | Yellow |
| Silver Leaf | Isla B Y1 - Respect for Others - for helping cut up everyone's meat on her dinner table. Elliot B Y4 - Respect for Others - for being kind and considerate to class members. |

Key events next week

Monday Netball Y5+6

Tuesday Tennis Team Event, Fit4Life Y3+4

Wednesday Cricket Y5+6, Girls' Football Y5+6

Thursday Girls' Football CV, Chess Y3+4

Friday Active Wheels

Dinner #1 New Menu

Happy Friday,

Mr Wright


Rainbow Ramble

Join Rainbow Hub for our annual 5 or 11 mile walk or run Saturday 29th April

- Starts & finishes at Bishop Rawstone High School, Croston, PR26 9HH
- Ribbon cut by Steve Royle, Britain's Got Talent Finalist
- Children from £5, adults from £15, please visit our website for more info

Register today at:  rainbowhub.org

For more information:

 e.parish@rainbowhub.org

 01704 823276

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