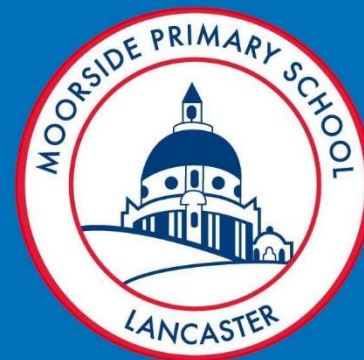


Moorside Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Roger Shone

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Whitwell

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Alice Earnshaw & Mrs Kate Nuttall

15th May 2020

Dear parents and carers

I would like to begin this week's update with a big thank to all your support and messages of thanks we have received via Facebook and Seesaw. The staff have put a lot of work into making the best of this situation and they are really enjoying seeing the work the children are producing and what they and you have to say.

Wider re-opening of schools (Y6, Y1 and Reception)

It is the wish of all staff at school to welcome back all your children as soon as it is safe to do so. In my letter on Tuesday, I outlined the government's plans for this along with what the reality is in schools in terms of the extent to which very young children can social distance.

At the time of writing, there is still debate at the national level with the government being asked to share its scientific evidence about the safety of staff and pupils returning to school in larger numbers. There is also a good deal of discussion between schools about the best way forward and there remains a great deal of work to be done to interpret and apply the government guidance.

As yet, we are still considering how to proceed, but we want our approach to be as safe as possible, gradual and sustainable. Therefore, everything is still on the table for discussion including the different year groups starting to return on different dates so that safe practices can be established on a smaller scale, along with part-time attendance initially. As previously mentioned, our plans and decisions will be shaped by the outcome of ongoing talks with staff, governors, the local authority and the government. It is not as simple as opening the doors to all pupils from these three year groups on 1st June. We want the experience of attending school to be safe and positive for pupils and staff alike, but certainly, in the first instance it will be very different to life before lockdown. We very much want children to return to school and understand the significant role schools play in allowing parents to go to work.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our initial survey earlier in the week. We will keep you updated, but we will be asking people for a firmer commitment in the near future as our plans start to take shape. This will help us to plan for staffing and allocation of rooms.

Key worker and vulnerable pupil group

School has remained open to children belonging to these two groups throughout the lockdown. Regardless of the year group your child belongs to, this group will remain open. However, we will have to consider our ability to run the before and after school care that we are providing as more staff may well be needed to run Reception, Y1 and Y6 depending how and when they return to school. It is possible that Kids' Club may be able to re-open once there is sufficient demand

School remains open during the half term for those who have already requested a place. School is closed on Bank Holiday Monday to all. Vulnerable children will be at home during half term.

Fair Trade

Last week we issued our Fair-Trade newsletter written by pupils. A corrected version has been added to our website. The original one failed to give credit to Iris for writing the persuasive letter. Thank you and well done Iris.

Reminders about Email Addresses

Over the last few weeks, we have set up three new email addresses to handle different enquiries. Below is a reminder and a brief explanation of the purpose of each one:

wellbeing@moorside-pri.lancs.sch.uk - for requesting help such as requesting a referral to a foodbank or emotional support

keyworker@moorside-pri.lancs.sch.uk – for telling us your child' attendance pattern each week (please use this each week to help organize sufficient staffing each day)

newreception2020@moorside-pri.lancs.sch.uk - for families who have a place in Reception in September 2020

We will forward to getting back to some sort of normality in the near future and hearing more about what the children have been up to over the last few months. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Roger Shone
Headteacher