

# Moorside Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Roger Shone

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Whitwell

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Alice Earnshaw & Mrs Kate Nuttall

22nd May 2020

Dear parents and carers

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a very happy Eid.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Mrs Atkinson, who teaches in Reception, on the birth of her first son, Jacob, who was born on Sunday. I am sure that you would all join me in wishing all her family well.

## **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. Since the government's announcement, advice has changed numerous times, so it has taken some time to develop a plan because a wide range of models needed to be considered. At the heart of our thinking has been:

- the safety and well-being of children and staff
- the quality of the experience for children in school
- maintaining the quality of learning for the children in year groups not yet able to access school
- supporting parents in returning to work
- continuing to offer care for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils regardless of their year group
- the need to form a plan which is both gradual and sustainable and which allows other year groups to be added when it is appropriate

## **The National and Local Picture**

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. Added to this is the fact the government will not announce the outcome of its review about the appropriateness of the wider opening of schools until 28<sup>th</sup> May. The outcome and the evidence on which it is based would still need to be considered and accepted by the range of professional bodies which represent education staff. On our website is a joint statement by the heads of a large number of local primary schools which express our views about the situation. To act in the best interests of pupils, parents and staff, schools are taking very different approaches depending on their local circumstances. For example, because of the size of our school and grounds we think we can accommodate Reception and Y1, in addition to Y6.

## **Our Plan**

Our plan is based on part-time attendance initially; with half of each class attending on any given day.

- Classes will be split into two 'safe bubbles' with a maximum of 15 children per bubble
- One bubble from each class will be in Monday and Tuesday only
- The other bubble from each class will be in Thursday and Friday only
- Each bubble will normally work with their class teacher and a teaching assistant, plus any additional 1:1 support if required
- Bubbles will often be split further throughout the day, in designated available space

- Work will be set via Seesaw for the days a child is not in school
- Wherever possible, learning will take place outside

Learning and routines will be very different from normal. To support your child's transition to school, we will be sharing photographs, videos and advice to help children understand what it will be like.

Having said all that, younger children will still find social distancing virtually impossible. Therefore, if you do not feel that time is right for your child to return to school, then that is fine and we understand. Attendance is optional and parents will not be held accountable for their child's attendance, but if a child is not attending then we do expect that they continue to engage with Seesaw.

### **Key worker and vulnerable pupil group**

The provision for this group will continue on a full-time basis, **except for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June which is an INSET day when the school is closed to all pupils. Please be aware that the capacity to run this group is not unlimited and that your child should only access it if there is no alternative as we may need to cap the number who attend.** If it is possible, we will try and continue to provide some form of before and after-school care; this is not known at this stage I am afraid, but it is something we are working on.

### **Reminder to key workers**

**The school is closed on Bank Holiday Monday and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Opening hours are 8.30 to 3.10pm on the Tuesday to Thursday. It is also closed for INSET on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** as we need the school to be empty for us to prepare for its wider re-opening.

### **What do I need to do now?**

Thank you to everyone who took part in our survey last week to give us an initial idea of figures. We are now asking for a firmer commitment.

**If you are a parent of a child in Reception, Year 1, Year 6, or have been using the keyworker provision offered or think you might need access to school places (e.g. be an existing/new keyworker), it is imperative you follow this link to complete a survey for each child in any of these groups:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QWRG8HD>

This survey will help us in our planning for allocation of children to safe bubbles. Given that attendance is part-time, based on the response to the survey, **we will try and allocate your child to your preferred days.** Although parents will be able to opt in even if your initial intention is that your child stays at home, we will need notice and ask that you contact us by the Wednesday of the week before you would like your child to start.

### **When will my child be able to attend?**

As I have previously mentioned there is debate at the national and local level, so we can only provide the plan and the earliest possible start date for each year group, but depending on the outcome of those decisions which are beyond the school's control, dates may have to move back.

#### **Year 6**

Earliest possible start date for bubble A: June 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday)

Earliest possible start date for bubble B: June 5<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

(parents will be notified which bubble their child is in before the end of next week)

#### **Reception and Year 1**

Earliest possible start date is the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June for each bubble following its respective pattern.

(parents will be notified which bubble their child is in in due course)

### **Routines and hygiene**

All staff, parents and pupils coming to the school will be expected to strictly adhere to the systems in place. I will write in more detail to parents of children who will be attending school in the coming days. Although it is half-term, please continue to look out for letters coming out via the website, Facebook and ParentApp for more details.

## **Years 2, 3, 4, 5**

The benefit of the plan we are adopting is that it means that until we can welcome back your children, we can maintain the quality of provision via Seesaw. The teachers will continue to set work and offer feedback and look forward to seeing what your children are up to.

## **ParentApp**

Thank you to all parents who have activated their Parentapp account. New invites went out last week to those inactive parents. We would urge you to activate these, especially if your child is in one of the year groups attending after half term, as messages are being sent out via the app.

## **Other school information – staffing information**

Amongst all the preparations for reopening school, we are also working on our staffing model for September, as our three-form-entry expansion will be complete. There are a number of teaching staff changes that are currently planned as follows:

- Mrs Atkinson will continue to be on maternity leave and Mrs Ashworth will be teaching Reception until her return
- Mrs Keech is moving from Year 2 to Reception
- Mrs Price and Mrs Nuttall are moving to job-share a Year 2 class
- Mrs Parkinson will be job-sharing two Year 1 classes, jointly with both Mrs Gardner and Mrs Rurlander
- Miss Holden is moving from Year 4 to Year 6
- Mrs Deighton will be teaching Year 4

There may be further changes as necessary and we will update you once decisions have been made. Class allocations for next year will follow in the coming weeks and we thank you for your patience at this time.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:newreception2020@moorside-pri.lancs.sch.uk) - for families who have a place in Reception in September 2020

Apologies for the length of the letter, but there is a lot to say! In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Roger Shone  
Headteacher