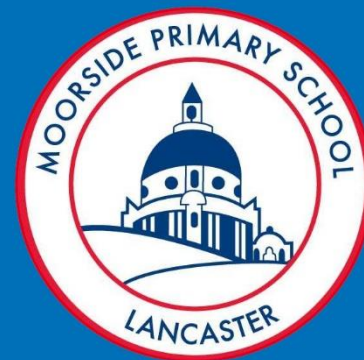


Moorside Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Roger Shone

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Whitwell

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Alice Earnshaw & Mrs Kate Nuttall

28th May 2020

Dear parents and carers

Some of you may have seen our post on Facebook this morning summarising Lancashire County Council's position regarding the wider re-opening of schools beyond the key worker and vulnerable pupil group. Just in case you did not I have included it below:

Early evening yesterday Lancashire County Council issued a statement to schools saying that the Government's 5 tests needed for easing the lock-down further, including the wider re-opening of schools had not been passed locally. Therefore, its recommendation was that schools should not open more widely at this stage but should continue with their current arrangements. The current arrangement being that Moorside remains open to the children of key workers or any children considered vulnerable. This means that we need to put on hold the plans for re-opening for Reception, Y1 and Y6 until further notice and the time when we receive further advice from the Local Authority.

In many respects, their statement is in keeping with the views we have expressed through recent letters in which I said that it was unlikely to be as simple as just re-opening more widely from 1st June. Other than our 'orientation days' for Y6, our wider re-opening for Reception and Y1 had been set provisionally for June 8th at the earliest, with the possibility that those dates could be pushed back. Whilst the detail of how we organise things in school is up to the school, there is the wider picture of which we must take account, but this is out of our hands. So, at this stage I do not think it would be helpful to fix a new date.

Having said that, extensive hard work and planning has been going on behind the scenes and will continue to do so. As a result, the school will be in a position to welcome back more children when the time is right.

If you watch the news or follow politics, it is very easy to forget that right at the heart of these discussions about schools and their wider-re-opening, are the children. Please be re-assured that they are absolutely at the centre of everything we do. With that in mind, staff will begin making phone calls over the coming days for a quick catch up and see what they have been up to. More on that soon.

Response to parent questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who responded to our questionnaire conducted via Survey Monkey last weekend. We will hold on to that information and use it to inform our planning. Wherever possible, children will be allocated to the days that match the pattern requested. For the time being, our key worker group is full. If you have been allocated a place, then you will receive a letter. Please do not just turn up.

Key worker and vulnerable pupil group

The provision for this group will continue on a full-time basis, **except for Monday 1st June which is an INSET day when the school is closed to all pupils.** Because this group has increased in size, and in-keeping with government guidance, this group is being re-organised into bubbles operating in six different rooms to minimise the number of other people the children come into contact with. A more detailed letter will follow informing you which bubble your child belongs to, along with the drop off and pick up times for their bubble, along with which entrance and exit they should use. A reminder about hygiene rules will also be sent. We also hope to post videos about the new arrival and pick up arrangements.

For the time being, this group is now full, and we cannot accommodate any more children. If you accessed after-school care in the weeks prior to the half-term, your child can access this again for one further week to allow you to make alternative arrangements. However, as I mentioned in previous letters, there was some question about being able to run this, so the last session will be Friday 5th June. The main reason for this is that because we are now required to keep bubbles separate, we then cannot bring children together at the end of the day and mix children from different bubbles.

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's 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

Beneath this letter, please find a full copy of the County Council advice to schools issued yesterday.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. Stay safe everyone!

Yours sincerely

Roger Shone
Headteacher

COVID19 Bulletin – 27th May 2020

Advice to schools on reopening to more pupils

Summary

Lancashire County Council is advising schools in the county not to open to more pupils from 1 June, but instead to continue with the current arrangements. This is because, in our assessment, we do not currently meet all five of the government's tests in Lancashire which would allow this decision to be taken safely.

We will regularly review the situation and provide further advice so that we can advise schools to open to more pupils as soon as we judge it safe to do so.

We are actively encouraging schools to follow this advice.

Government advice for schools and parents

The government has released the following direction under scientific guidance regarding the re-opening of schools on June 1st:

- Nurseries and other early year providers, including childminders, are to begin welcoming back all children.
- Primary schools are to welcome back children in nursery (where they have them), reception, year 1 and year 6.
- Secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges are to begin some face to face support with year 10 and 12 pupils. We do not expect these pupils to return on a full-time basis at this stage.

Local assessment

The government's five tests are outlined below:

- Protect the NHS's ability to cope. We must be confident that we are **able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment** right across the UK.
- See a **sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates** from Covid-19 so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak
- See that **the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels** across the board, although we don't see the results of all tests in a timely manner. In addition, we are starting to see social distancing not being followed everywhere across the county which poses the risk of new cases to rise.
- Be confident that **the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand**, with supply able to meet future demand.
- Be confident that **any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections** that overwhelms the NHS.

Locally, we are currently able to meet the requirements of the first three tests; however, we do not meet the requirements for the final two tests. The test and trace programme is not at a state of readiness to respond to Covid-19 community setting outbreaks in a timely manner, which poses a risk to school environments. Furthermore, we are not confident that adjustments to the current measures of the lockdown policy will not risk a second peak of infections locally.

Consequently, our advice to schools is to not re-open to more pupils on June 1st, but to continue with their current support systems that are in place. The safety and wellbeing of children, their families, and school staff outweigh the benefits of opening schools of 1st June.

The key information supporting this advice is that:

- The current support system in schools for children of key workers and valuable children, which is how we describe our vulnerable children, is sufficient at this time. Additionally, safeguards are in place in Lancashire to support those children who are at risk in the community, and this support will continue.
- There has been no evidence of education outcomes worsening due to the effects of government lockdown policy.
- It is not going to be possible to implement social distancing in early years school settings.

- There is currently no evidence of widespread immunity in community settings.
- There is a significant risk that should outbreaks occur in school settings, the current system will not allow for tests to be conducted in a timely manner and therefore, the virus will continue to spread.

Schools will be kept well informed on a regular basis from the Director for Public Health in Lancashire and Lancashire County Council. We will regularly review the situation and provide further advice so that schools can re-open as soon as it is safe to do so.

In this challenging time, we recommend that everyone continue to follow the government advice of staying alert by:

- Staying at home as much as possible.
- Working from home if you can.
- Limit contact with other people.
- Keep a 2m distance from other people.
- Wash your hands regularly.

Dr Sakthi Karunathini
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
Lancashire County Council