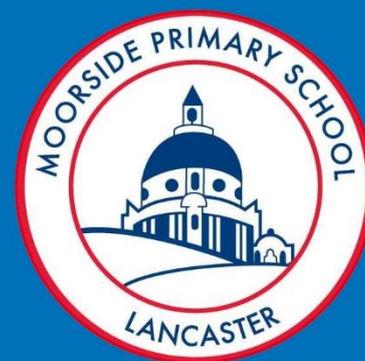


Moorside Primary School

Bowerham Road Newlands LANCASTER LA1 4HT
01524 66516 www.moorside-pri.lancs.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mr Roger Shone

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Whitwell

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Alice Earnshaw & Mrs Kate Nuttall

12th June 2020

Weekly Update

Dear parents and carers

Great Work and Ideas

I would like to begin this week's update with a big 'well done' to everyone who has been taking part in the work on Seesaw. From time-to-time, I dip into the different year group pages and have a look at what people have been up to. This week there has been some great work from Y6 who have been recreating famous pieces of art work. We hope to share some of these on Facebook shortly. The parent support for the learning platform from all year groups has been brilliant. Thank you! Thank you also to all the teachers who have been working tirelessly to create the content, respond to the work, as well as working in school and running their own home schooling with their own children.

Phone calls

As I mentioned last week, teachers have started phoning families for a quick catch up. Please be aware that their call will show as 'No caller ID' or 'Number withheld', so if you have had a call or receive one like that in the next few days, it could be them. As I mentioned in a message earlier in the week, we have had staff absent from work this week from Y3, 4 and 5, so if your call has not happened yet that could be the reason.

School lunches

The school kitchen re-opened on Monday 8th June. Initially they are just preparing school packed lunches as they make it easier for us to organise lunchtime safely at present. Children are still welcome to bring lunch from home. As normal, there is no need to pay if your child qualifies for a free school meal or if they are in Reception, Year 1 or 2. If you would like your child to have a school lunch, a dinner register will be taken each morning when your child can inform the teacher of their choice. We would ask that you stick to a pattern of either school packed lunch or home packed lunch to help the kitchen when planning numbers. If your child is in KS2 and not eligible for free school meals then you can pay for lunches using Parentpay. Please do not send in cash or cheques. Please could all children continue to bring a drink from home as the school water fountains are currently closed.

Wider re-opening of schools

As we mentioned in a message on Monday, The Director of Public Health for Lancashire reviewed local evidence relating to Covid-19 on Monday 8th June. Unfortunately, his recommendation was that it was still not safe for schools in Lancashire to re-open more widely. He is reviewing the evidence each week and is due to make another announcement on Monday 15th June. From our point of view everything is in place

for the school to open more widely, thanks to the hard work of staff over half-term but it is this recommendation that is preventing us at the moment. I hope to be able to share further information on Monday.

We have now completed our survey of key workers about their requirements for a school place until the end of term. Thank you to everyone who responded. **We are able to accommodate all the requests which were made before the survey closed.** Demand for places has increased significantly and everyone who requested a place has been allocated one. Once it is recommended that we can re-open more widely, **we will be able to welcome back Y6 and Reception.** Unfortunately, once all the key workers' children, vulnerable pupils and those two year groups are in, we will have reached what we consider to be a safe limit for the time-being. For most rooms in the school we have set the maximum number at 12, and allocated each bubble a 'break-out' space, going beyond the government guidance.

School places for children of key workers or vulnerable pupils

Following our recent survey and the significant increase in children attending, we have had to re-organise the bubbles and create extra ones. If your child has been attending, we have tried to keep their start and finish times as close to the original ones as possible. You should receive a letter today (Friday) giving you details about their bubble, their times and which entrance/exit to use.

Seesaw

Seesaw will continue to run for all year groups. Until this point, the year group pages have been maintained typically by one to two staff each week, with the third member of each team working in school. From Monday, virtually all staff will be working in school, so less staff will be available to run the pages. Content will continue to be posted and work will be 'approved' and feedback will still be given, but this may become more selective.

Transition

A significant amount of our time has gone into making the school safe and working on different plans to allow the maximum number of children to attend safely. However, we are also thinking about how to end the year positively and allow children to move into their next year group with confidence. This is particularly the case for children who are unlikely to attend. Thought is also going into how we introduce the new Reception children into the school. I hope to have more on this for you soon.

Take care everyone!

Yours sincerely

Roger Shone
Headteacher