

# Moorside Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Roger Shone

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5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Weekly Update

Dear parents and carers

This week it has been good to see an increased number of children attending school through the keyworker and vulnerable pupil scheme. Each child has been assigned to a bubble based on their year group, with each bubble being kept separate throughout the day. Thank you, to families who have attended, for following the staggered start time and one-way system. **Please do not arrive before you child's start time. Even if it is raining, we will only let the children in at their allotted time.** No one should be on the school site before 8.30 as Breakfast Club is not running.

Although the need for the staggered starts and one-way system may not immediately be apparent at the moment, the system has been set up to cope with increased numbers on site as the weeks go by. Even though it may seem quiet outside, on the inside, there are still children who have already arrived (social distancing) putting things on pegs, washing hands and going into the classrooms at safe distances. Everyone needs to understand that normal everyday things currently take much longer, especially with the youngest children. Fifteen reception children take about 7 minutes to wash their hands if they are doing it properly under supervision! Believe me, that's a lot of handwashing in a day!

### 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.

### Temporary addition to school behaviour policy

Over the next few days an annex to our behaviour policy will be appearing on our website. The annex describes the routines and expectations we have of children attending school over the coming weeks.

### School lunches

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June, the school kitchen will be re-opening. Initially they will just be 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**

The Director of Public Health for Lancashire is due to review local evidence relating to Covid-19 on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. If his decision is that the Government's five tests have been met locally, then we should be able to advise you of a date for wider re-opening. **However, it must be understood that before we can re-open to Y6, Reception and Y1, we must ensure, that based on the government guidance, any vulnerable pupils and those of key workers have the option to attend.** Schools have been asked to give priority to those children first. If the demand from those priority groups is very high, then we may not necessarily be able to welcome back all three of those year groups. If we cannot accommodate all three year groups, as well as the key worker children, we would prioritise in this order: Y6, Reception and Year 1. We hope to have more information shortly, following our final survey of key workers. See below.

### **Key Workers: School Places**

As far as we can tell, everyone who has asked for a place in school under the key worker and vulnerable pupil scheme to date, has been allocated one. The task of managing a wider opening has been difficult due to a large number of additional requests being made since our earlier surveys.

Because we want to make sure that everyone who thinks that they might need a place at some stage this term has a final chance to tell us, we are opening a new survey on Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Moorside1>. **It is essential that all parents who think they might be key workers complete this survey if you think your child might need a place before the end of this term. You must do this even if you child is already attending.**

A child should only attend school if we have received a formal application from a parent and we have verified that all the necessary criteria have been met. Please make sure that you complete the survey in full. A place should only be requested if there is no appropriate adult at home who can provide childcare.

**The deadline for the survey is midnight on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Beyond this date, we may not be able to offer a place if the allocation is full. This information is vital as we need it to be able to make decisions about other year groups and inform those parents.**

### **Key workers: Attendance**

If you child is not attending on their allotted day(s) for some reason, such as illness please follow normal procedures for reporting an absence.

### **Breakfast Club and After School Club**

The basic request from the government was for schools to make themselves available to offer their normal school day to the children of key workers. Since March we have been offering a reduced version of Breakfast Club (free of charge) and after school provision as Kid's Club has been unable to operate. The new requirement to keep children in separate bubbles means that operating provision before and after school is extremely difficult.

As I mentioned last week, we cannot offer breakfast club at the moment, but we have found a way of offering very limited after school provision until 5.30pm from Wednesday to Friday for a further week. Places will be limited to 10 per night and for the coming week will be offered initially to those families who have been using the facility up until half-term. Based upon the survey currently available on Survey Monkey we will review the feasibility and practicality of running after school provision beyond next week.

## **Dogs and Car Parks**

Dogs are not allowed on the school site unless they are tied safely away from entry and exit routes in the car park. It is especially important at the present time that entry and exit routes are kept clear for children to arrive and leave safely. **The staff car park is now just for staff and disabled use again.**

## **Looking forward**

Although all the letters at the moment seem to be about keyworkers and Y6, Y1 and Reception, we have absolutely not forgotten Y2,Y3,Y4 and Y5. When your teachers are not in school running key worker groups, they are busy running learning on Seesaw and will be calling for a chat.

I am sure that I am not alone in looking forward to a time when school life starts resembling normality. This time of year is normally extremely busy - full of sports days, visits, sporting events and school productions. It may be some time until we get back to all of that. In the meantime, life in school is different, but still enjoyable for the children and teachers, and as other year groups start to return, we will work very hard to provide them with really positive and worthwhile experiences even they will be a little different from normal.

Take care everyone!

Yours sincerely

Roger Shone  
Headteacher