

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

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Weekly Update

Dear parents and carers

September

You will probably have heard about the latest Government guidance for schools which was published yesterday. One of the main changes is that children will be able to belong to larger bubbles when in school. This means that we can now welcome back all children in September – great news! Since March the school has been open to vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers. During that time a range of hygiene measures and safe routines have been in place successfully. Over the coming week, we will be planning for how these measures are adapted to manage the whole school population. We will also be looking at how Breakfast Club can run and working with Kids' Club to enable them to re-open. More details about September will follow next week.

Year 5 – Grammar School Entrance Exams

I will be writing to Year 5 parents early next week. If you are interested in your child sitting the entrance exam, then please look out for the letter.

ParentApp

As many of you with more than one child in school will be aware, we had some problems connecting siblings on the app. This problem has now been resolved and all siblings should be linked. If they are not linked please contact support@parentapps.co.uk and they will be happy to help with any queries.

It is also advisable to switch on your notifications for the app, as when we add new content you will be made aware of it. If notifications are off the onus is then on parents to keep checking for new content. This may prove useful for when your child's report has been uploaded.

Reports

As I mentioned last week, we will start to send out reports with a letter of explanation from early next week. These will be sent electronically by either ParentApp or email. If you are not active on ParentApp please make sure we have your up to date email address. We plan to send out two or three class sets a day.

Messaging and Social Media

In recent years and particularly during lockdown, the use of technology has increased enormously, bringing many benefits, but also drawbacks. For the vast majority of the time our school community runs very

smoothly with very few problems occurring. From time-to-time in the heat of the moment, parents make comments about other parents, children or members of staff. Although, the 'group' may appear to be private, it rarely is and is often shared with a much larger audience and inevitably gets back to the person they are making the comment about. Please can I remind everyone that this is not a helpful or fair way of exchanging information as it does not allow people outside of the group any right of reply or to challenge a viewpoint and often serves to escalate a small issue that could have been solved if the proper channels had been followed.

Maintaining your child's school place

If you are currently outside the UK, it is important that you maintain contact with the school and that you inform the school office of your anticipated return date, if you have not already done so. We do realise that your plans maybe uncertain, but it is very important that you keep us informed on a regular basis. Please keep checking the school website/ParentApp for letters. The government has announced that school attendance is compulsory from September. School re-opens on Wednesday 2nd September. Your child's school place may be at risk if they do not return on 2nd September and you have not informed us of your plans.

Summer

We are very aware that children have not been able to access their normal clubs or leisure facilities since March. With this in mind, we have been looking at what might be possible over the summer and working with different groups. Sportz4all are hoping to run two activity weeks in August at Moorside. At the moment, we can also confirm that childcare is available through Moorside Kids' Club at their Dallas Road site. As other activities are confirmed in other locations around the city, we will signpost parents to those.

Goodbye and thank you

Sadly, we will be saying 'goodbye' to Mrs Chadwick this summer. In her time with us she has worked mainly in Reception and Year 1 so has had a very important role in welcoming children into the school and helping them feel happy, confident and at home in their earliest days in school. We will miss her and wish her well with her retirement.

Take care everyone!

Yours sincerely

Roger Shone
Headteacher