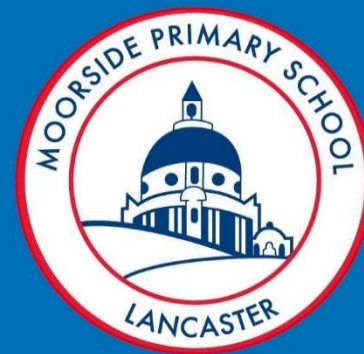


Moorside Primary School

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

22nd January 2021

Update – 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Live Keep-Fit Sessions with Natasha

Keeping active at the moment can be tricky but is very important. We hope you were able to access Natasha's live keep-fit session this morning via our Facebook site and that you enjoy it. We plan for this to be a regular feature each Friday at 8.50am. Natasha is brilliant, and the children love their sessions with her in school, so I am sure her Facebook live sessions will be a big success.

Keyworker Places in School

Just a reminder to everyone we have offered places to in school, only to use them if you really need them. Although our numbers have been more manageable this week in most parts of the school, on some days we are still experiencing a very high capacity. If there are days when your child does not need to be with us, then it is expected that they are cared for and supported at home. From next week we will be monitoring attendance more closely, so it is important that you complete the survey to notify school of any changes to your pattern. If we do not have the correct information, it may result in you being asked to take your child home on days where we are full and you have not notified us of a change.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MSideCW21>

Moorside is part of a wider cluster of primary schools in the Lancaster and Morecambe area who work together on projects for the common good of children in the area. Please can I draw your attention to a joint statement attached to this letter which has been issued on behalf of many of the schools of the area.

Punctuality

If your child has a place in school, it is still important that they arrive on time. We are still working hard to keep year groups separate to reduce the risk of Covid transmission. If they are late, there is the chance they are mixing with children from other year groups.

Class Zoom Calls

We know how important contact between children is. Most year groups have now hosted Zoom social calls between the children or are in the process of organizing them. Year groups which have already taken part have really enjoyed it and the staff and children in school really loved seeing the children at home.

Draft Special Needs and Disability Policy

A draft version of our SEND policy is currently available for consultation in the 'Policies' section of the website. Last year, we carried out a survey with parents about SEND. The majority of the feedback was positive, but some parents felt that timescales for assessment could be quicker. Since then, we have made our processes more efficient and invested a lot of time in addressing this issue. If you have any comments about the policy please respond by Friday 29th January via this survey link below.

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

Over the next few weeks, we are working to make our SEND area of our website more user friendly to allow parents and carers to interact with it more easily. We are also carrying out maintenance and updating of other parts of the site, so some sections may be unavailable for brief periods of time.

Possible Change of INSET Day Due to Election

Last year the election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner was postponed until this year. The new date is 6th May. Since being notified about this in the weeks before Christmas, we have been in talks with the City Council. In the past we have been able to run the school and election safely on the same day. Because of the need for social distancing, this is not possible as we need to use virtually all of the school site for the majority of the day, we cannot allow external users to make use of the building. Our proposal is to **close on May 6th, but to open on June 7th** which had been identified as an INSET day. In that way, children will not lose any more time off school. We hope to confirm that shortly, but felt it was important to give you early notice of a possible change.

Online Access to Remote Learning and Laptops

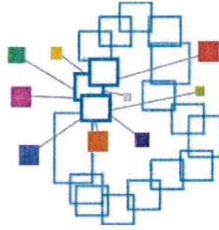
As far as we can tell, everyone who requested a laptop, has now been provided with one. However, we have now run out. Please make sure that if we have provided one, that it is being put to good use. We do hope to have a small number of additional ones soon from a local charity.

Crossing Patrol

Those of you who have been attending, will know that we have a new crossing patrol officer in the form of Mr McClements (Ronnie) who is also our site supervisor. We are very pleased to have him and I am sure he will do a great job.

Yours sincerely

Roger Shone
Head Teacher



LANCASTER, MORECAMBE AND DISTRICT PRIMARY HEADTEACHERS' GROUP

January 20th 2021

Parents/Carers,

As headteachers of over forty primary schools across north Lancashire, we really appreciate and thank families with a critical worker who are only using school when absolutely necessary. This is helping to minimise contacts; slow the spread of the virus; and protect our local communities.

Nonetheless, we have some concerns about the numbers of children in school at the moment. Attendance in primary schools is five times higher than in the first lockdown. Tasked with reducing risks where possible, hearing examples of children in school when they could clearly be at home is challenging and frustrating. We recognise that it is better for children to be in school, however, ALL families across the district are asked to follow the spirit of the guidance rather than what can be gained, by staying at home whenever this is possible.

The guidelines state that "Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required", but also say that "parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can." Managing home learning isn't easy, however, we are urging ALL families with a critical worker to access school days sensibly and as little as possible.

The national directive is clear - to stay home as much as possible. This will help save lives, minimise risk to those in school, protect the NHS and enable us ALL to return to school more quickly.

Thank you for your cooperation and for showing collective spirit.

Headteachers, All North Lancashire Primary Schools.

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE PRIMARY HEADTEACHERS GROUP