

Moorside News 15th July

We have made it to the end of the year, with almost everyone here. Sadly we don't have 1PG and some individual children self-isolating. We look forward to welcoming them back in September. In the case of the two Y6 children not with us, we wish them well and would like them to know that they are welcome to visit and that we wish them the best of luck.

The Start of Next Year

Throughout the pandemic, a key strategy has been to have a staggered start to reduce the amount of mixing at very busy times. It is very hard to predict what conditions will be like in six weeks time, or to anticipate what government guidance will be. For the first two days, we plan to keep the staggered start in place; this is to help us manage the children as they move to unfamiliar parts of the school.

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September

Y1, Y3 and Y6 can arrive from 8.40 and will be asked to line up at 8.50 and their new teacher will take them to their new class.

Y2, Y4, and Y5 can arrive from 8.50 and will be asked to line up 9.00 and their new teacher will take them to their new class.

Monday 6th September Onwards

The official start of the school day will revert to our normal time of 8.50am.

Years 2 to 6 may arrive on the playground from 8.40 and go into the building when they are ready, but they must be in by 8.50.

Y1 may also arrive on the playground from 8.40, but will continue to line up until the teachers think the children are confident and ready to make their way down to their classrooms themselves.

Initially, until there is a clear view of case rates and transmission, we are still trying to minimise the numbers on the school site at any one time. However, we understand that Y1-3 parents will still want to come onto the playground and wait until their child has gone into the building.

One way systems will remain in place initially and we would ask that parents wear masks on the school site and definitely wear them if talking to a teacher. As the picture becomes clearer in September, we hope to be able to review and remove these measures.

Buddy Bench

The Buddy Bench is now complete and has become really popular during the day and before and after school. It's plaque has been fitted in memory of Lottie, a former pupil. If you are passing the bench or take time to sit on it, please read the plaque as it will make you smile, giving a positive message for how to live your life ('enjoy life, laugh a lot and eat cake'). Many thanks to MOORFS for funding this and to Baldwins Building Services (owned by some Moorside parents) for installing this as a kind gesture for the school.



1 - Buddy Bench Complete With Plaque

Year 6 Leavers

It is always a time of mixed emotions when our Y6 children leave. On the one hand, we are sad to see them leave after spending seven years getting to know them. On the other, we are pleased to be sending children on to the next stage of their education equipped with positive skills, talents and qualities. This week they have been hosting virtual leavers' events for their families and today they have a day of fun, games and eating planned. We would like to wish them and their families well and hope you will visit from time to time.

Educational Visits



2 - Something to Remember from our Reception Farm Visit

Educational visits are a big part of life at Moorside. Looking ahead to next year, current Y4 parents have been be aware that we are planning on taking the new Y5 children to York for a two night residential in November, letters went home yesterday. Current Y5 parents need to be aware that we are planning on taking the new Y6 children to Hawse End in the Lake District in March 2021. Again, more details will be shared in September. We apologise to the current Y5 parents as we are aware that you have only just paid for your child to go to York, but in normal times, there is an eighteen month gap between these visits and time to save up, but the pandemic has meant that this year visit to York was delayed and took place in June and July.

Uniform

The last two years have been disrupted and we understand that at times, some aspects of uniform have not been readily available or that it has not been cost effective to buy new footwear just before a long holiday. The vast majority of children are well-turned out and smart. Please may we remind all parents that it is an expectation that all children wear full uniform everyday and that children should have school shoes and NOT trainers. We want all children to be smart and appropriately dressed. It is also an issue of fairness that the expectation and access to school clothing is the same for all children. We don't want children to have the distraction of worrying about the brand of trainers they have. Other reminders about uniform include:

- socks should be grey, black or white and free from embellishments
- earrings should be simple and small and not liable to catching on clothing

-long hair should be tied back and, if head bands are worn, they should also be simple and plain

-our PE kit is white T-shirt and black or blue shorts, with trainers / pumps for indoor use by KS1 children

-skirts should be of a suitable length for primary school-aged children

-no makeup at all should be worn

-please consider the style of school shoes that you send your child in, remembering that they spend their playtimes running around, often on uneven ground, and some of the strappy or loose-fitting ones on the market are not fit for purpose

Additional Holiday

Next year, as a result of the Queen's Jubilee, there is an additional bank holiday. Schools have been given discretion when to take it. Our proposed date is Monday 6th June ie the day after the summer half-term. This will be confirmed in the the autumn.

Staffing News

All our children have now had the chance to meet their new class teacher(s) and other members of staff working in their new year groups.

We have a number of staff with a significant change in role from September:

- Miss Sue Cooper is beginning a phased retirement in September and will be job-sharing a class with Mrs Duckmanton and providing PPA cover for the Year 3 classes
- Mrs Nadia Waller-Sargent is changing roles to be a teaching assistant for the next academic year. She will be working in 6MW as part of the Year 6 team
- Miss Katie Fraser has been appointed as Learning Mentor for Years 1, 2 and 3, alongside providing PPA cover as a teacher in Reception K, Year 1H and Year 2A

We will also be saying goodbye to a number of staff tomorrow. I'm sure you'll join us in thanking them for their work in school this past year:

- Ms Rebecca Loudon, who has been teaching in Year 6 and providing PPA cover
- Mrs Anne-Marie Wood, who has been teaching in Year 3 and providing PPA cover
- Miss Grace Mcillmurray, who has been supporting children in Reception
- Mrs Jayne Safari, who has been working as a teaching assistant in Year 4
- Mrs Kay Whiteway, who has already retired from Moorside once, and has been here ever since!

- Mrs Sue Bowman, one of our welfare team

We also welcome our new staff that are joining us in September:

- Mrs Aline Gunson, our new French teacher, who will be teaching French to Years 3 to 6
- Mrs Jessica Stanlake, our new class teacher for Year 6
- Miss Geraldine Onek, who will be job-sharing a Year 5 class with Mrs MacCuish and providing PPA cover for Year 6
- Mr Joe Pickles, Miss Lucy Trotter, Miss Ellie Woods, Miss Joanne Winder, Mrs Samira Patel, Ms Tracey Fletcher, Ms Kathryn McCutcheon, Miss Gayle Hamilton and Ms Joanne Stephenson who will be temporarily joining our teaching assistant team with a variety of roles throughout school

Road Safety

Last week, we wrote about work we are going to do about safety on the roads around school. We are pleased to say we have been successful in obtaining some really attractive teaching materials for use in the autumn



3 - Teaching Materials for Use in the Autumn

Thank You

The last eighteen months have been hard for many people and learning has been disrupted for children across the country. We have tried hard to provide the best quality learning we can in the circumstances. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication, the children for their enthusiasm and resilience and you, the parents, for your support and patience. Thanks also to the Governors for their ongoing support and MOORFS for a range of events which have lifted people's spirits.

On a personal level, and behalf of the staff, I would like to thank many parents for various gifts, kind words and comments about our work with your children.

From everyone at Moorside, we would like to wish you a safe, happy and enjoyable summer. School re-opens to children on Thursday 2nd September to children in Y1-Y6.