

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

KEEPING IN TOUCH #8



22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,



I know that some of you will be finding it hard to believe that it is Half Term, when the days and weeks seem to be merging into one at the moment! In some ways, I feel really sad, having not seen you all now for over 8 weeks, but then I also feel an overwhelming sense of strength within our community, even more-so than before school was closed. Some children may have taken to learning at home like ducks to water initially, but found some days and weeks an uphill struggle and vice versa. I think that just by persevering and not giving up during these tough times with a 'we'll try again tomorrow' is a 'win' in itself! This half term, I am sure that you have been scientists, explorers in the outdoors, historians, and inclusive and tolerant citizens, through learning about different religious beliefs and celebrations in cultures other than our own. I feel so proud of all our children, when we receive your updates with photos of their activities that they are doing in their learning packs. Roughly 75% of our school community have also been consistently accessing their learning online last half term too – well done and please keep up the great work online over half term, when you have half an hour here and there!

We continue to be in the same position regarding the reopening of school as my letter dated 14.5.20. We sent surveys to parents whose children are in the year groups recommended to return to school first in the government guidance. I REALLY appreciate your feedback, as it has helped us to make some critical decisions in terms of staffing the school and organising the children and daily school procedures, taking a number of actions to reduce risks. 'Frequently asked questions' and answers from our surveys have been attached at the end of this letter for your information. I cannot reiterate enough that you should not feel under **any** pressure from others to send/not send your child to school in the current climate and that you should talk to your child and your family about the decision that is best for you. If, and when, it is confirmed that schools will actually open, those children who have been invited into school because they fall into one of the year groups/priority groups will receive a booklet with photos and further information before they return, this will include their start date and time of arrival. If you are a key worker of children in Years 2, 3, 4 or 5, and require childcare week beginning 01.06.20, the same system remains, please complete the form on the school website: www.moorsideschools.org.uk.

Next half term, all children at home and at school will be provided with the same learning and curriculum experiences through learning packs. The weekly themes are on our website in the curriculum section, on the overview and will be emailed to you too. If your child is not coming back to school in week commencing 1st June, you can still collect your learning pack on Monday 1st June between 1.30-2.30pm. If you cannot come at this time, we will post or deliver your pack to you.

	WC 4.6.2020 Art	WC 5.6.2020 PE/PE	WC 15.6.2020 Refugee Week	WC 22.6.2020 Transition	WC 29.6.2020 Geography	WC 6.7.2020 Science	WC 13.7.2020 Moorside Got Talent!
EYFS	Let's paint like Georges Seurat!	Why is it important to be fit and healthy?	What does it mean to be safe? 	How can we prepare ourselves for change?	Postcards from Paddington	What is the same and what is different? 	 Prepare, Perfect, Perform!
KS1	Can I draw like Henri Matisse?	How can I keep myself safe?	How might it feel to leave your home?		Where in the world do I live? 	Why do woodlice live under stones and not in a pond?	
UKS2	Can I draw like Paul Klee?	How do I feel if situations change?	We're not so different – let's stand as one – 		Is England the same as other countries in Europe?	How can we protect ourselves from the sun?	
UKS2	Can you paint like Picasso?	Why is it important to be an active citizen?	Why should we be aware and how can we help?		Where in the world would you like to go? 	How do we know living things have changed?	

I just wanted to say a huge thank you.... I really appreciate your patience whilst we juggle 'learning pack production' and liaison with you all at home, alongside preparing for the different eventualities for potential school opening over the coming weeks. We appreciate you feeding back to us through our weekly phone calls, so that we can offer further support and advice if we can...if we don't know, we can't help. It is a privilege to be the Headteacher of our amazing school. However, a school is only bricks and mortar without the children and staff who make it such a wonderful place. There is light at the end of the tunnel – I am sure that we will (in time) look back on the challenges that we have faced with the knowledge that our school community has only strengthened through supporting each other. Have a lovely half term!

Best wishes,
Mrs Rowett

Frequently asked questions about the wider opening of school

Feedback from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 6 surveys

1) How will you maintain social distancing between children in Nursery and Reception?

The government guidance on reopening schools recognises that it will not be possible to maintain social distancing in Nursery and Reception. Instead, children will be placed into ‘bubbles’ or ‘pods’ as we are calling them, with a maximum of 8 children per pod. They will stay in these pods until the ‘R rate’ is lowered, and social distancing measures are relaxed nationally. The nursery pod (Pod 1) will use the nursery classroom, a separate outdoor area and the nursery cloakroom. The reception pod (Pod 2) will use the reception classroom, a separate outdoor area and the reception cloakroom. The pods will have their own resources which will be cleaned regularly. Activities will be planned carefully to reduce unnecessary physical contact. Staff will work with the same pod to avoid mixing of groups.

2) Will the measures put in place have an impact on childrens' future learning?

As always, we have made changes with the children’s well-being and safety as our priority. The government has produced guidelines about which resources are safe to use and which should be removed. We have balanced this guidance with what we believe to be integral to young children’s learning and play, and have reorganised the classrooms with this in mind.

3) With the small number or groups, how often will the children be outside?

We are planning to use the outside areas as much as possible. Activities will be planned to take advantage of our lovely outdoor spaces!

4) What should my child wear when they come to school?

Guidance states that children should change their clothing daily. We would prefer children to be in uniform, however we do appreciate that it might be difficult:

- *If they have grown out of it since schools closed*
- *To wash uniform on a daily basis.*

Therefore, uniform rules will be relaxed and children are advised to wear appropriate clothing for school, particularly as they will be outdoors as much as possible.

5) Who will my child be with during the school day?

We will be providing your child with a pack to transition back into school. This will include the name of the teacher and teaching assistant who will support them during the day. The staffing arrangements will follow the guidance that the same ‘bubble’ of people should be the same each day, so unless a member of staff is absent for any reason, they will remain with them. They will have contact with their class teacher through outdoor activities or Zoom assemblies within school. Once we have a clear idea as to which children will be attending in the event of school opening, we will contact them to ask them about their preferred friendship groups and ensure that there is at least one person in their bubble who they have chosen.

6) Staggered start and finish arrangements.

The reason for this safety measure is to ensure that we are following social distancing guidance and regulations. We want to avoid numbers of adults dropping off and picking up coming into contact.

Children within pods will not arrive at the same time so that they have adequate space to settle into school. Siblings will be able to arrive at the same time as they will not be in the same pod. Children of key workers will be able to arrive at the usual time of 8.50am and leave at 3.20pm, as per the arrangements since 20.3.20.

7) Learning in school....will we be supporting Year 6 children in their transitions?

Learning in school for Year 6 pupils will mirror what they are doing at home, with some additional PHSCE and mindfulness activities to support them in their relationships with others in their ‘bubble’. All Moorside children will be provided with transition support, whether they are at home or in school. We will be finding ways for Year 6 to celebrate their time at Primary school with ‘End of Year’ fun, again, whether they are at home or at school.

8) If my child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 do they have to attend all week?

The wider opening of these classes is to provide stability and support for children at these ages and stages, therefore it is strongly encouraged that children do attend every day, if you decide to send them back to school.

9) What should my children bring to school?

Children should bring a coat and a packed lunch (if they do not access a school dinner). PE and Forest School kit should also be kept in school each week. Children should not bring additional items. We do ask that children in Nursery and Reception children are sent with a change of clothes in case they are needed.

10) Will the school definitely open to some children on June 1st?

We are waiting for confirmation from the government about the 5 tests. The school has planned training for staff on June 1st therefore our earliest date will be June 2nd. We will keep parents and carers informed about plans via the school website, email and text.

If your child is struggling with this unknown situation moving forward, we have attached a social story that you can share with them at home.