

Dear Parents,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE WIDER OPENING OF SCHOOLS ON 8th MARCH 2021

Following the publication of guidance for the wider opening of schools last Monday, we have secured our plans for the fully re-opening of school next week. I have finalised a full risk assessment which you might like to read at: <https://www.moorsideschools.org.uk/risk-assessment-for-the-wider-opening-of-school/>. This letter summarises the risk assessment with some additional information. The arrangements and risk mitigation measures are as follows:

What children need:

Children should be in full uniform unless they are taking part in PE or Forest School. Our uniform requirements are at: <https://www.moorsideschools.org.uk/school-uniform/>

Children must not wear crop tops or hot pants as PE clothing and need appropriate footwear (trainers) for outdoors. They should wear their school jumpers for warmth on PE days.

As per the letter I sent out last Friday, children have PE/Forest school on the following days:

Reception – PE Mondays, Forest School Fridays

Y1 - PE Tuesdays, Forest School Wednesdays

Y2 - PE Tuesdays, Forest School Fridays

Y3 - PE Tuesdays and Fridays

Y4 - PE Tuesdays and Fridays

Y5 - PE Tuesdays, Forest School Wednesdays

Y6 - Forest School Wednesdays, PE Fridays



Classrooms will be well ventilated with doors/windows open throughout the day to minimise risk of the spread of germs, so please ensure that your child wears an additional layer or two to keep warm. Children will generally not need to bring things into school apart from a coat, a NAMED water bottle for Years 1-6 (which will be stored on their desk and this will be washed in school.

Children in the Early Years will be provided with their own plastic cup which we will name for them. These will be washed daily) and a Moorside book bag. They must NOT bring a rucksack. Children who have a packed lunch will need to bring a disposable one – no packed lunch boxes please. This is to prevent items going to and from different environments.



Arriving at/Leaving school

Due to the need to social distance we continue to have staggered start/end times of the day for family groups and request that this is just one adult per family. If you are unsure about your child's start and end time, please call the school office before Monday 8th March.

Group A start at 8.30am until 3pm

Group B start at 8.45am until 3.15pm

Group C start at 9am-3.30pm



Please be on time and avoid waiting on the playground before or after school. We must ensure that we keep people safe by maintaining 2m distance even outside. We therefore request that you leave the playground as soon as you have dropped off/collected your child and avoid holding conversations with other parents/members of the community.



Children will enter and leave school in the same way as during the Autumn term 2020. They will need to be collected at the agreed finish time to avoid any learning loss throughout the day/week. If you need to attend an appointment, please organise this with the school office in advance.

PLEASE DO NOT use the school car park or drive up the main drive, as this puts pedestrians at risk. This area is for staff parking only.

Parents/Visitors coming into school

If you need to speak to your child's teacher or you have any issues that need resolving, please contact the school office via telephone or e-mail and we will be able help you. In exceptional circumstances, external adults will be granted access to the building if they are wearing a facemask. For example, compulsory Health and Safety checks or Safeguarding measures.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Rigorous hygiene and sanitisation measures remain in place:

- Each class will have 2 hand sanitising stations and consistent hand washing routines.
- In the classroom children will have their own set of equipment/stationery which will be cleaned daily.
- Tables and equipment will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Key Stage bubbles will be adhered to for lunchtime and playtimes, which will be staggered.
- There are allocated toilets for bubbles.
- Assemblies will take place via Zoom, so that bubble groups do not mix together.
- Children will not gather in groups any larger than their key stage bubbles for sports activities, Forest School and playtimes.



Reading Books

Book bags are important to protect their reading books. Reading books will be sent home on a Monday and returned on a Thursday to be quarantined for 72 hours before redistribution.

Wrap Around Care

Buddies will be running as usual from 7.45am- 8.30am and 3.15pm-5.30pm. Please book in advance to guarantee a place.

We hope that we will be able to resume extra-curricular after school clubs after Easter, but we will await further information from the DfE. We must request that you try to minimise the contact that your child has with other bubbles if they attend a range of clubs outside of school, so that the risk of transmission reduces as much as possible.

There is further guidance for parents at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf (page 51).

The lockdown rules are still in place Nationally apart from the wider opening of schools.



Covid 19 Symptoms and Testing Staff



All staff in school will be carrying out lateral flow tests twice per week. If a member of staff who has been in contact with your child tests positive, you will be informed via text and email that your child will need to isolate until the member of staff has accessed a PCR Covid test. If the result is negative, your child will be able to return to school immediately. If it is positive, the bubble may need to close and remote learning will be resumed for the isolation period.

If you, your child or any member of your household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss of taste or smell) then you must not come to school but must immediately seek a test. Please inform school as soon as possible of the outcome so that we can take any necessary steps in keeping everyone safe. You can find information about how to request a test for COVID-19 at:

https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus?gclid=EAlalQobChMIpdPY66zP6gIVVOvtCh2lrQtgEAAAYASA%20AEgKK6_D_Bw. Any child displaying symptoms of Coronavirus will be isolated within school until they can be collected by a parent/carer.

Testing households and support bubbles

On Sunday 28 February, the [Department of Health and Social Care announced](#) that from Monday 1st March, households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week. Households, childcare and support bubbles of primary, secondary and college staff can also be tested. The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed:

- via employers if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Schools have been informed that they should **not** give test kits to parents, carers or household members and should **not** order more test kits for this purpose. Letters containing advice on where to access testing will be made available for schools to share with parents and staff shortly and we will, of course, keep you informed. Please follow this link for the [guidance](#) which provides information on who can be tested and how you can get a test: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

It is a legal requirement for schools to fully re-open on 8th March and for children to attend school. I very much look forward to seeing you all and would like to thank you again for your patience and understanding, as we work hard to re-open school fully. As always, we are available to support you with any concerns or queries that you might have so please do email us directly. There is likely to be further media hype about schools returning to 'normal', but reporting can be inaccurate. We will continue to keep in touch with you with any information or guidance to support all members of our school community.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Rowett'.

Mrs Rowett