

Moorside Primary School

Head Teacher: Mr S Lawler-Smith

Holdsworth Street, Swinton, M27 0LN

Tel: 0161 921 1295

E-mail: moorside.primaryschool@salford.gov.uk

Website: www.moorsideprimary.net

Twitter: @moorsideprimary



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Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: COVID-19

I would like to thank you for your support and patience during this time. At the time of writing this schools in England have not been advised to close, this situation may change but as it stands Moorside Primary shall remain open. Please be reassured that we have and are working extremely hard in school to ensure that your children remain safe and receive the best educational provision.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of what we have put in place, allowing us to focus on the health and wellbeing of both staff and children, but to also prepare you for the possibility of being forced to close for a given period of time.

Actions taken

We have a responsibility to commit to the national effort to delay the transmission of the virus and this includes the importance of hand hygiene. We introduced measures three weeks ago ensuring children's hand hygiene is frequently scheduled and robust. The use of hand sanitising gel continues to be part of your child's school day.

Other actions that I have taken today are as follows;

- All assemblies have been cancelled
- All after school clubs have been cancelled
- All outside trips and visits have been cancelled
- All sporting competitions have been cancelled
- Restrictions have been placed on school visitors
- Alterations to drop off procedures in EYFS
- Additional in school activities cancelled e.g. Stay and Play, Magic Night
- Break times – lower key stage two children (Yrs. 3 and 4) now have a different break time to children in upper key stage two (Yrs. 5 and 6)
- Senior Leaders of the school are meeting with myself 8am every morning

Trips and visits

The cancellation of trips and visits is in an effort to reduce the risk, where possible, of our pupils coming into contact with the virus and – thus – of spreading it to the most vulnerable in our families and community. We apologise for any disruption and we understand that it will cause disappointment. However, such cautious decision making is made with the best intention.

With regards to residential visits, I am currently consulting with the Local Authority to advise accordingly. Once I receive more information, for those parents and children that have booked their place for a residential this year, I will be sending another letter providing additional detail.

As you will anticipate, the situation is changing daily and we are reviewing our procedures daily. Quite evidently, we are also still planning for future events even if they may – given time – have to be cancelled. We will do what we can to communicate as swiftly as we are able, but please be assured that all of our decisions are made with the intention of keeping our children and staff safe and protecting those who are the most vulnerable.

Plans for possible school closure or partial closure

If we have a staff shortage then a decision to partially open the school will be made. If this is the case you will be duly notified.

If the school is closed for any length of time we will facilitate online learning as much as possible through See-Saw. Teachers will set task based learning through See-Saw and we will continue to communicate to you by this and other means throughout the length of any school closure.

Medical Advice

Please can I remind you that, if your child experiences a new and continuous cough and / or a high temperature, they must be self-isolated for seven days. Such absences will be medically authorised. In this event, it is very important that you make us aware of this absence and symptoms so that we can monitor the potential impact on school.

Non-attendance due to self-isolation

Where a child cannot attend school due to self-isolation, including as a precaution if there is a risk to someone in the family with a severe medical condition*, in accordance to the latest advice provided by DoHSC & Public Health England, the child should be recorded as code Y (Unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances).

Non-attendance due to fear of contracting the virus

Where a child is kept out of school by their parent/guardian as a precautionary measure through fear of contracting the virus without travelling to an identified country of concern; without there being a risk to someone in the family with a pre-existing medical condition* or having contact with someone who has the virus, the child should be recorded as code O (absent from school without authorisation).

**in this case, pre-existing medical condition is one deemed as being potentially impacted by the symptoms of the virus.*

We very much appreciate your support and understanding in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. S. Lawler-Smith
Head Teacher