

## Moorside Primary School

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20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Carers

### COVID-19 Update

Firstly, I must say a sincere thank you for being patient whilst waiting for information regarding the partial closure of our school. You have all been extremely supportive of the staff and for that I sincerely thank you all!

Moorside Primary will remain at the heart of your community - of that I can assure you! Every member of our staff and Governors are here to support you and your child through this period of uncertainty. If you have any questions, no matter how daft you may think they are, please ask and converse daily via See-Saw. I shall provide our community with a weekly letter, with a view of keeping you all informed of current Government decisions about the education of your children/child.

Whilst we are formally closed from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 onwards, we will continue to support your child, both academically and pastorally.

### Key workers

At midnight, the Government published a list of those parents/carers who are entitled to send their child to school. The link below provides specific details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As a community, we are extremely grateful to all these key workers who are looking after us all. In return, our staff have all committed to provide a nurturing, warm, welcoming and safe haven for your child to attend, to enable you to focus on your respective profession. It is critical to note, however, that this provision should only be taken up if there are no other alternatives.

In the best interests of you, your children and my staff, we wish to minimise any risks and the number of students attending should, therefore, only be in circumstances where it is essential!

The guidance in this is explicit, **all children who can stay safely at home throughout the school closure period should do so**, in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Schools have been instructed to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. As a school, we remain committed to this.

Using Government guidance, we are asking that all families where there is an adult at home, or working from home during this period to;

- Keep your child at home when possible i.e. if you are a shift worker
- Keep your child at home, when you are working from home
- Keep your child at home where there is another family member able to care for your child

This is an offer to key worker parents and carers only, however there is no requirement to send your child/ren to school should you not wish to do so. The guidance above is also applicable to children with an EHCP and or a social worker.

The number of staff and pupils at school should be restricted at all times. If you believe you are classed as a key worker, and you have no other option to keep your child safe during this period, you should have by now informed the school office. **Keeping children safe at home, with a non-key worker parent must be a priority.** Contact will be made, within the next two hours, with parents to confirm and discuss decisions that the school senior leadership team have made, regarding children who will be able to attend school at this time.

We will be asking you to send in formal identification of your key worker role. This could be sent via See-Saw or shown in person to a member of our administration team.

This service will be for Moorside pupils only and as yet we have not been asked to facilitate any children from other primary schools within Swinton by the Local Authority.

To further support your understanding of this new legislation;

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home then they should be
- If a child need specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them
- Parents should not rely for child care upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as Grandparents, Friends or Family members with underlining medical conditions
- Parents should also do everything they can to ensure that children are not mixing socially in a way that can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults

In these most uncertain of times you can be assured that Team Moorside will do everything we can to minimise the impact and disruption to your children's education and wellbeing. In the meantime ensure you look after yourselves and your loved ones and be kind to each other.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S. Lawler-Smith  
Head Teachers