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6th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I sincerely hope that you are having a peaceful and restful weekend.

You may have seen in the press over the weekend that the R level within the North West has increased to over 1. To be precise, the North West R level is currently standing at 1.01. I have been in contact with the Local Authority regarding this and I received the following information that I am now sharing with you all.

“You may be aware that there has been some media coverage this afternoon that the R number for the North West is now 1.01 (0.83-1.18). This is a figure for the NW and we have been informed that it is not possible to have a figure for sub regions. Salford position is on the lower end of the NW estimate (less than 1) based on the reducing numbers of cases and deaths which has not changed in the last week.

We have taken advice from Salford’s Director of Public Health on the plans our schools and settings in Salford have to increase access to more children next week.

The advice is that because the rate in Salford remains lower than the rest of the region, our schools and settings should remain open and continue as planned to increase access to other children as set out in DFE guidance. Please continue to keep your risk assessments for wider opening under review and use the step by step guidance provided if a child or adult develops COVID19 symptoms in your school community. The Council will continue to keep this position under careful review.”

As always, the safety of our staff and children is the most important factor in every decision that we make. This afternoon and this evening I have continued to liaise with my staff, the Local Authority and our Governing Board. At present, I plan to continue to follow the advice and school will open for key workers children, Year 6 and Reception on Monday 8th June 2020. I will, as stated earlier, review extending this offer to all children in Year 1 with a provisional date for children in Year 1 to return on the 15th June 2020.

I have based my decision on Local Authority advice, but also the confidence that we at Moorside have in our Risk Assessment and all the measures and procedures that we have developed, in school, to reduce the risk of infection. I can comfortably state that we have worked extremely hard to ensure your child/ren and our staff are as safe as they can possibly be when in school. What I cannot do is state that there is no risk of your child/ren coming into contact with, or possibly contracting, Covid-19.

You now have two options;

- To send your child into school
- Not to send your child into school

Either way, this decision is a personal one and either way my staff and I shall support you whole heartedly. If you choose to send your child/ren back on Monday then we will work extremely hard to ensure your child/ren will have a fantastic time whilst being taught and educated, only when they are settled and mentally ready to do so.

If you choose not to bring in your child/ren back on Monday then we will continue to provide appropriate and supportive on-line learning materials for them to complete at home.

But, either way, we will support you and work hard to ensure that the support on offer is effective.

As a parent myself, I am fully aware of the predicament you find yourselves in and there is no right or wrong answer. You will have to do what you believe is right for you and your family and this letter is a promise that we will support you and your child either way.

I will continue to monitor the R level within Salford, the North West and Nationally, alongside any further developments of the five test areas that the Government have stated are a requirement to maintain schools open safely and remain so. I will ensure that I keep you all informed with any relevant changes or developments.

Enjoy the rest of the weekend.

Kindest regards,

Mr S. Lawler-Smith