

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



12th June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week has seen our school doors open further, for pupils in two of the eligible year groups specified by the Government. I am pleased to report that the new processes that our parents and pupils have had to adhere to, have been extremely well received and have allowed our pupils to complete work and have fun in our 'temporary normal'. It is vital that this compliance continues, especially as we see our Year One pupils return to school on Monday 15th June.

I must remind you, that each year group (parent and carers included) are required to use the previously specified gates to enter and exit the school grounds. This is a non-negotiable request and will be even more important as we see the number of people on site increase next week.

The pupils attending school at the moment and returning to school imminently have all been placed in Bubbles. These Bubbles are limited to 10 pupils as a maximum. Should you have a child that is eligible to return and you wish for them to do so, we require one week's notice from you, as previously communicated. Your child will then be allocated to a Bubble where there is space. Safety will always be considered first when designating Bubbles.

This week has allowed staff and pupils to experience school life again in some capacity and as a school we are very confident in the measures we have in place. I would however like to draw your attention to the following email from Councillor John Merry, Deputy City Mayor and Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services which I received on Wednesday afternoon.

Dear Headteacher,

Thank you for all your hard work in dealing with the virus outbreak and the consideration of risks and safety involved in your school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am writing in follow-up to Public Health England's publication of the R rate on the afternoon of Friday 5th June 2020 to strongly recommend that any further consideration of expansion of the numbers of children in your school is deferred until we have the chance to consider the implication(s) of this. This deferral would also allow for the consideration of the implementation of the track and trace system, the infection rates and the latest advice and guidance you have received from the Director of Public Health, which I'm aware is being used to inform the school's risk assessments.

In view of this, I would strongly recommend that you do not further expand opening until at least the 22nd June 2020. I would further recommend, if you have not already, that you revisit your risk assessment in the light of changed circumstances. This is particularly important if you have already extended provision beyond vulnerable children and the children of key workers. It is not my intention to disrupt the education of children currently attending your school, but if the revised risk assessment shows it would be dangerous to retain current levels, we will support you to reduce them.

I would also urge you, in particular, to utilise the checklist developed by the Trade Unions together with the risk assessment developed by the Council.

Can I thank you and all members of staff in your school for the work you've been doing over these difficult and challenging times, it is truly appreciated.

**Kindest Regards,
Councillor John Merry
Deputy City Mayor &
Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services**

As you can see, Councillor Merry recommended that we review our risk assessment and that, **IF** our risk assessment shows any aspect of our provision to be dangerous then to consider closing for pupils apart from the Key Workers.

My Senior Leadership Team and I review the risk assessment on a regular basis and had, in fact, spent a large proportion of yesterday reviewing it in its entirety (you can appreciate that it is a lengthy document!). The outcome of this review was that we are completely satisfied that the school remains as safe as possible for the children we have, the bubbles are working extremely well, the children are relaxed and happy in school and the staff are doing an outstanding job.

My conclusion on this matter, is that our revised risk assessment does not show that it would be dangerous to retain current levels, we will continue to open for Reception and Year Six and we will open as planned for Year One children from Monday 15th June for those parents who have informed us as such. I will, of course, continue to review the R level in Salford and my Governing Board and I will not hesitate to close should we need to. Should this be the case then I will communicate to you over the weekend.

As always I would like to thank you all for your continued support. I would also like to publicly thank all staff at Moorside Primary. Their commitment to your children during this whole process has been astounding. Our pupils are exceptionally fortunate to have such dedicated staff whose main priority is the health and wellbeing of all in their care.

I would like to also remind you that the decision to send your children to school in these unprecedented times lies with you and you alone. We will support you in whatever that decision may be.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Lawler-Smith
Head Teacher