

Moorside Primary School
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Important Information Regarding the Partial Re-Opening of Moorside Community Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much to those who completed the questionnaire last week. Now that we have an initial idea of pupil numbers and further guidance from the DfE, we are putting clear procedures and practices in place to ensure the risk is minimised as the children return to school. If any aspects of this letter are not clear for you, please contact the school office.

We cannot wait for our school to be filled again with happy children, enjoying learning and the company of their classmates. It is clear however, that we must go step by step and above all, ensure that we are minimising the risk and prioritising the safety of your children and our staff. The Senior Leadership Team and Governing Board have studied the guidance documents very carefully, which is updated daily from the Department for Education. This letter is to allow us to share our thinking on this, so you are aware of how life at Moorside will potentially look like over the coming weeks.

I would like to reiterate that the following information is subject to change based on national decisions. Therefore, all of this is dependent on there being no change to the DfE/Government decision on May 28th. However, regardless of what the guidance states you can be assured that when the children come back to school they will be welcomed first and foremost with a smile!

At the end of this letter is a list of questions raised from the first questionnaire with my answers to them. However, I would like to address some of the concerns many of you raised which could influence your decision to send your child back to school in more detail:

Which Year groups will be returning and when will this happen?

Year Six and Reception will be returning on Monday 8th June in the same way as previously described with half the children attending on Monday and Tuesday and the other half attending Thursday and Friday.
Year One will return on Monday 15th June in the same way as described above.

We have made the difficult decision **not** to have Nursery children back in school at this time due to lack of space and resources including staff numbers required to maintain bubbles working effectively within school.

How will bubbles / groups be organised?

Once we know which children are going to be returning to school the class teachers will allocate children to a particular bubble and will take the following into account: Friendship groups, behaviour concerns, Special Educational Needs, physical and emotional needs and more.

With this in mind it could well be that your child will not be in a bubble with their 'best' friends or with their class teacher.



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To run faster than we hoped
To reach higher than we dreamed
To be the best that we can be*



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We will not take requests for children to be placed in any particular bubble or to swap bubbles at a later date. We will be ensuring that the bubbles are carefully thought out and the children in each bubble for their year group will be learning the same content. Our staff are also committed to ensuring your children are having fun, enjoying their lessons and making new friends!

Which days will my child attend?

Unfortunately, we will not be taking requests for certain days but we will ensure that siblings are allocated to the same days.

Key Workers

The children of Key Workers will be allocated to their own bubbles and will not interact with any other bubbles. For the children of Key Workers in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 they will be taught the same content as the other children in those year groups for the equivalent of two days. For all other times they will be child-minded as per the current arrangements.

Key Worker children in Nursery and Reception will be in a bubble in our Early Years setting and will have access to the same provision as they have currently. For other frequently asked questions please refer to the list at the end of this letter.

Next Steps for Non Key Workers

The previous survey was to give us a rough guide for numbers. This next survey will be for you to let us know whether, after digesting this information, you will be sending your child(ren) back to school from the dates above. You must complete this survey for each of your children if they are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Non Key Worker Parents in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6: <https://moorsideprimary.typeform.com/to/Eh5juk>

We urge all parents and carers to complete this survey. If you do not, we will presume that your child does not require a place and we will plan our staffing accordingly. If you decide that it is still too soon then please choose the 'no' option but you may change your mind at a later date. If this is the case then you must let the school office know your request with a week's notice.

Next steps for Key Workers

If you are a Key Worker, please complete this survey to show whether you will be sending your child to school from 1st June. Please complete this survey regardless of whether you have sent your child in every day since March 23rd or not at all. Your children will still attend as per your shift patterns as and when needed.

Key Working Parents and Carers: <https://moorsideprimary.typeform.com/to/Pm7C3G>

I must stress to you that these extraordinary times have been extremely challenging for all at Team Moorside. My staff have been exceptional and I am truly grateful for their commitment and support. We have had to, and continue to, make some difficult decisions, please know that these are always routed in the safety and wellbeing of your children. I would like to express my sincere thanks for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Lawler-Smith
Head Teacher

Frequently Asked Questions:

Firstly, a huge vote of thanks to all of the parents and carers who completed this survey and were so candid in their thoughts and opinions. The overwhelmingly positive comments for the school and my amazing staff are particularly welcome. Thank you for those.

There is no right or wrong position to take here in this circumstance and whatever decision you make for your child is the correct one for you and your family and we fully support you in this.

We have collated the questions taken from all the surveys completed and have done our best to answer them as fully as we can. We also feel we owe you transparency and honesty even when it means admitting we don't yet know the answer...

Will you be taking temperatures of the children while at school? **No. There is no guidance for us to take the temperature of children at this point. We will review guidance and a regular basis and make informed decisions based on this.**

Can we change our minds about sending our children in? **Yes of course as long as you communicate to our office staff about it and give us notice.**

What would be the process if we feel a bit later on that it's safer? **Phone or email the school office and let them know when you would like your child to start attending. They will be able to give you more information on request.**

Will siblings be in the same groups (in on the same day)? **Yes, having siblings in on the same day will be one of our key criteria for allocating children to groups.**

Will children be in friendship groups within their 'bubble'? **This is something we are very mindful of although we cannot guarantee that your child will be in the same bubble as the friend(s) they want. We will certainly aim to make this happen though as we understand that being with friends is one of the reasons children love coming to school.**

How will the class be set up? **All teaching spaces will be set up with a minimum of furniture to allow for a maximum distance between work stations (chairs and tables). This will be different in Reception, but the children will be sat on the carpet keeping as socially distant as possible. Each bubble will have their own equipment that will not be used by other bubbles and, as far as possible, older children will have use of their own equipment.**

How many play times will there be? **For years 1 and 6 there will be a morning break and lunch break which will be staggered in bubbles in allocated outdoor areas. Reception will have their outdoor provision in allocated areas in staggered times.**

Will sport activities be cancelled? **No, but these will all be outside wherever possible and only activities that allow social distancing and not handling equipment with cross-contamination will be taught at present.**

Will the school close straight away if there is a possible case of the virus [increasing in cases / rate of infection]? **We will follow Government / LA / Union guidance in this case with the safety of the children, families and staff at the forefront of any decision taken. I will be liaising with the Governing Board weekly and reviewing guidance stringently to make informed decisions to maintain the safety of your children and our staff.**

What is going to happen with the transition from year 6 to high school? **This is a priority for us and there will be separate communication regarding this for Year 6 children and parents at a later date as this is currently being discussed and planned with the various High Schools. I have met with the HT from MHS and have placed a number of suggestions regarding transition opportunities for children in year 6.**

How will lunch times work? **Children in Years 1 and 6 will eat lunch in their learning space to minimise travelling around school. They will either eat a packed lunch or have their school dinner delivered to their bubble. They will have an outdoor break either before or after their lunch and this will be staggered. Reception children will have staggered lunchtimes in the hall maintaining social distance and have an outdoor break also.**

Will each bubble have any contact with other bubbles throughout the day other than sharing corridors? **No. Although we cannot guarantee it completely our aim is that the bubbles will be completely separate entities. Drop off and pick up times will be tricky, but we will be relying on the support, sense and flexibility of you as parents and carers to ensure social distancing is carried out effectively as part of our plans for these times.**

Will we find out what group/bubble they will be in and who with and what teacher? **Yes, but there are a number of factors we just don't know yet and I envisage this information will unfortunately not be available until very near the proposed date for returning.**

Would we be informed if anyone in their bubble/group is infected with covid-19 or starts with symptoms or their family members? What would the policy be if this happens? **Yes. If anyone in a bubble has symptoms then will immediately be isolated, parents informed and advised to get tested. The rest of the bubble, inclusive of our staff will then be sent home and self-isolate and get tested. If any member of that bubble is tested positive, the parents are asked to inform the school. Then the school would notify all bubble parents and asked to self-isolate for 14 days.**

If it was a family member with symptoms, then the child would isolate until the test results came back. If positive, then that child would isolate with the household for 14 days. In any case we would follow the current medical guidelines.

Why have Moorside taken the decision to reopen when other schools in the area, councils and districts are deciding to remain closed until September? **Salford Council has not stated that schools should remain closed. Some Local Authorities have said they will not be opening on the 1st June but this has been for a number of reasons: Some authorities have a 2 week break at this time and therefore have simply said they will look at returning from 8th June instead.**

For children that do return will they be having proper lessons? **Yes. My staff will be planning to deliver quality lessons in difficult circumstances and with a flexible timetable to allow for children to be able adjust to being back in school.**

Will the children that don't return be at a disadvantage? **Situations such as this will impact different children in different ways. There are too many factors to allow me to answer this question fairly.**

Will activities still be put on seesaw daily? If so will these be the same as what the children in school are doing? **Online learning will still be running for those year groups not able to return to school. There will still be some online learning for the year groups potentially returning but the emphasis will be more on paper-based activities linked to the lessons taught that week. More information will follow once we have finalised our plans.**

What will happen with the transition to the next academic year? **This is a key priority for us and we are working hard to prepare and plan for a virtual transition e.g. meet the teacher, social stories etc. More information about this will follow once we know more information.**

Will uniform be required for both children and key workers? **Children will be required to wear their own clothes which is changed daily and more guidance on this will follow. Teachers will also have a dress code that will negate the wearing of ties, watches and other items that may increase the risk of contamination.**

Will Moorside Plus be running? **At the moment the answer is no but this will be reviewed regularly.**

Will the children of key workers who are already at school be grouped together? **Depending on numbers the keyworker**

children will be kept in their own bubbles, but this may not be possible should numbers increase.

What about children with Special Educational Needs? They will be treated on an individual basis and we will be communicating to parents separately about this to ensure they are happy with and clear about the protocols we will be putting in place.

Is anything known about if/when school classes might return to a more 'normal' setting? No. I wish I had a different answer but at the moment there is no information available about this.

If a second peak occurs is it likely schools would be closed again at a later date? Should this occur we will follow government / LA / Union guidance should this occur.

Will it be just one gate being used? As there are many gates and people come from all directions and yet there only ever seems to be one gate open at time when schools not fully open? We have planned for all possible gates to be opened fully during drop off and pick up times to ensure there is as much space move around the campus as possible. Each year group will be assigned a specific gate which they much use. We will ensure there are members of staff at hand to direct you and signage to ensure social distancing is maintained at all times.



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