

Moorside Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and good spirits.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support. Your messages of gratitude and support have been warmly welcomed by all of Team Moorside.

As I am sure you will agree, this is a very challenging time for us all. The past week we have focused our time on planning for the **potential** reopening of school for Nursery, Reception, Yr.1 and Yr. 6 on the 1st June. Every decision and thought process has been driven by safety and safety alone. At Moorside we want to be sure that we have exhausted every option to reduce the current risk to you and your families as much as is feasible to do so. We believe that safety is paramount; the safety of your child/ren and families, the safety of our staff and everyone in our schools wider community.

The purpose of this letter:

- To describe what the provision may look like at your school
- Ask you, the parents of Nursery, Reception, Yr.1 and Yr.6, about your views of reopening
- Ascertain how many of you are considering sending your child/ren back on June 1st

Attached to this letter is a link for you to complete a parent survey. This is to ascertain your view on your child in Nursery, Reception, Yr.1 and Yr.6 potentially returning to school. To enable you to make an informed decision we would like to share the following aspects of our plans with you. At this point, I must stress that these plans are not fixed, they will change dependent upon any advice and guidance we receive from central Government.

Our aim is to re-open when it is only safe to do so and bring these plans to life only if there is sufficient evidence to support this plan.

Plan

To enable us to open our doors as safely as possible we will be working on a reduced number of children in at any one time. Therefore, only 50% of the children from each identified year group will be in school at any one time. Identified year groups (Yr.6, Yr.1, Reception and Nursery) will be allocated either Group A or Group B.

Group A will be in school, all day, Monday and Tuesday

Group B will be in school, all day, Thursday and Friday

This plan thus creates teaching bubbles of children, working, learning and playing in small groups.

Wednesday will be time set aside to clean areas in readiness for the new bubble entering school (Group B,) on

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Thursday and Friday. It will also enable teachers to then deliver appropriate on-line learning tasks to all children that are not in either of the year groups already stated.

As phased introduction of these year groups will be in place, starting with Yr. 6 and then rolling the offer over a period of time as and when it is safe to do so.

Teaching Bubbles

Children will be taught in small groups ranging between 8 – 10 pupils. These groups will not mix with other bubble at any time. We will be using all of our staff team to facilitate this plan, therefore, we will not be able to guarantee that your child/ren will be taught by their teacher, we also cannot guarantee that your child/ren will be working in their friendship groups.

So, small groups – two staff members per group – being taught in teaching bubbles

Social Distancing

Children will be encouraged to socially distance as much as feasibly possible. As you will be aware, this will be incredibly challenging, if not impossible to enforce, particularly with the younger age range of children that have been targeted to return to school. However, we have developed, and are continuing to develop, social distancing measures for all to follow. These are based on everyone maintaining 2m distance.

Environmental Changes

The school environment will be altered to adhere to social distancing practices. This includes; one way systems where appropriate, 2m floor markings, signage to reinforce our social distancing expectations. However, we cannot guarantee that your child will always and consistently remain 2m from others at all times within their bubble. We can guarantee that our staff will ensure they will endeavour to encourage social distancing for the pupils that have been asked to return.

Teaching Spaces

We will be using all space available to minimise the size of the groups. This means that some children will not be working in classrooms, but instead the teaching breakout spaces situated outside of the classrooms. Teaching spaces will have to alter in line with guidance; e.g. soft furnishing removed, tables spaced accordingly, certain toys and learning resources removed.

Drop off and Pick up Procedures

These will be staggered and altered to ensure social distancing is achieved. This will take longer than what you are all used to. Year groups will be allocated one point of entry in the school. When on the school premises you will be asked to queue with your child/ren along the designated path which will have 2m markings. Children will be dropped at one point of entry per year group and you will follow a one-way system to exit. Parents/carers will not be allowed inside the school building at the point. Staggered times will be communicated to limit the number of families arriving/leaving at any one time. Only one adult is permitted to drop off or pick up at any one time. Once up and running, these procedures will constantly be reviewed and communicated should they change.

Key Working Families

We will continue to work hard to provide care for those key worker families. Please note, that the identified key work list, as defined by the Government, has not changed. Our key worker requirements remain the same, if a request is made, proof of your job role is required and a please will then be considered.

We understand that, for many of you, this decision is out of your hands, as it is for many of our staff. Please be assured



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that we will continue to reflect on our practice and do everything in our power to continue to reduce the risk that we are all facing. Your school will continue to be the warm and happy school that we always have been, things will look very different in the short term.

Next Steps

Please take some time to consider our initial plans, ask any questions that you may have via the normal methods and of course, Seesaw. Once you have read this I am asking you all to complete the survey below by Wednesday 20th May by 12.30pm. We will then use the outcomes of this survey to plan our next steps, all of which will be communicated to you in a timely manner. Please access the survey via the link below:

<https://moorsideprimary.typeform.com/to/Lzqrft>

Before completing the survey I must remind you that the choice to send your child into school, for selected year groups is your decision and yours alone. There will be no actions taken against you should you choose not to send your child into school. We are currently unaware of when the Government will announce the confirmation of when schools in England will reopen and to reiterate, these plans are not fixed and may change.

Thanks again for all your supportive comments. These are very unusual and challenging times but **we will get through this together!**

Kind regards,



Mr S Lawler- Smith