



A very busy & exciting term at Moorhill

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would firstly like to say what fabulous children you have. They have made my first term at Moorhill most welcoming. They have helped me find my way around the school & find out invaluable information about life at Moorhill as a pupil.

As a new leader to the school, I have had lots to learn & review. The staff team have been very supportive & offered ideas for improvements & below are just a few changes we have or will be making.

Time has been precious this term & I have prioritised getting to know the children but next term I hope to meet with more parents & carers. I would therefore like to invite you to a meeting on Wednesday 10th January at 5pm in the school hall.

The meeting will be an opportunity for staff, governors & parents to get into small groups to talk about things that work well & things you would like to see improved. The meeting will last for approximately 45minutes. I hope you can join us.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas & I am very much looking forward to a successful 2024.

Mrs Banks.

IMPROVING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

The children in years 4 & 5 were clearly finding the mixed age classes a challenge & so the 3 classes have now been split into 4 single age classes meaning children are being taught in smaller groups & the children report that is suiting them much better.

We have had both school halls decorated & new curtains for both have been ordered.

We will be having new security fencing in place on the Key Stage 1 site & we will be introducing 2 playground

areas to the Key Stage 2 site by introducing new fencing there too.

The KS2 office has been given a face lift & a new meeting area set up for parents too.

And... most excitingly, the Shaw Education Trust have agreed to develop a new entrance on the KS2 entrance – this is going to take a little time -but it will make the KS2 office & site much more accessible to all.

IMPROVING EARLY YEARS PROVISION:

We have now set up the classrooms in the reception area. We ordered lots of new furniture & resources to help the children settle into the early years & support those who have needed extra transition time & additional needs support. We have also set up a sensory room within the area & installed a security door to give them their own safe space within the larger school. We have also recruited additional staff to the team who will be starting very soon to further support the early development of our youngest children.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION:

We will be introducing a new telephone system in the new year as we have had several concerns about the network system in the school. We hope this will make it easier to contact the office. We have also added another member of staff to the Key Stage 1 office in a morning to help it run a little more efficiently. The main number will remain unchanged.

From January we have asked Miss Snape to be the main point of contact for parents at the end of a day on Moorland Road.

We have also released Mrs Liley from her teaching commitment. This means she is able to dedicate all of her time to her Special Education Needs role, working with children & meeting with parents more efficiently. We are aware that across the whole country the Special Educational Needs System is under strain with limited special school places available for child who do not have



very complex needs & Staffordshire is no different. We have also commissioned the support of a specialist SEN teacher & now working closely with another Shaw Education Trust School – Saxon Hill Special School.

New Pastoral Worker – we have appointed a new member of staff who will join our team in January. She will be supporting the pastoral needs of children & families. This is a need identified by our children - 59% said they would value more support in managing their emotions in a recent survey.

Mr Morrissey has been working alongside Mr Phillips from Redhill on the Mental Health Support we offer children at Moorhill. Mr Morrissey will be taking on the Senior Mental Health Leader role in the new year.

IMPROVING TEACHING & LEARNING:

Staff from Moorhill & Redhill have been having joint staff meetings & sharing expertise in different curricular areas. This term we have focused on engagement with learning, early reading, early years teaching & learning, special educational needs, writing and the use of the iPad & online safety. Next term, we will be exploring maths & science, pastoral & mental health support.

We have appointed a new teacher to join Key Stage 2 who has lots of experience & proven track record on raising pupil attainment. We look forward to Miss Nickolls joining our team in January.

Redhill is also looking forward to welcoming some of the children to the Panto tomorrow – sadly due to fire regulation - we cannot accommodate everyone on this occasion.

White Rose Mathematics Scheme

From January, we will be launching a new mathematics scheme in school that focuses on developing children's accuracy and reasoning skills in their mathematics learning. The scheme focuses on encouraging mathematical thinkers and developing confidence in solving problems. We will be sharing how you can

support your children in their mathematical knowledge in the New Year. This is something the staff are really excited about, and we look forward to sharing the success of this with you soon.

Swimming

Over the Autumn Term, Year 6 have been attending weekly swimming lessons. They have made huge strides in progress with their confidence and swimming skills. The swimming teachers have noted how respectful and resilient the children are when they attend. Year 6 will be continuing with swimming until February half term.

TT Rockstars

The children's participation in TT Rockstars has increased, which is having a positive impact on their recall of their multiplication facts. I know there has been some competitive battles taking part, with Maple Class winning the latest challenge.

Rocksteady Concert

On Wednesday 6th December, some of our pupils performed in the second Rocksteady Concert. Well done for all of the hard work that went into the rehearsing for the performance, and for having the confidence to perform. I know the parents and children on Key Stage 2 loved watching and encouraging the young musicians, they even joined in with the songs.

Year 4 Ukulele

Over the term, Year 4 have been developing their expertise in playing the Ukulele. They have a weekly music lesson, with a specialist teacher, who has reported that the children are confidently working on their note notation and rehearsing songs with different rhythm and structure.

Science

From January, we are implementing a new assessment system for Science across Years 1 – 6. This will help children develop their skills over the years, assisting them in recalling prior knowledge.



Early Reading and Phonics

A full review of our Early Reading and Phonics programme has been carried out, with the help of an external representative from Ruth Miskin Read Write Inc. Following her advice, we have conducted further training with staff and have invested a large sum of money on new phonics books for the children.

We have also invested money in reading books for the Key Stage 2 site. We will be working on evolving the reading areas across the school to promote the love of reading across the school.

Dog Therapy

Some of our Key Stage 2 children have had the opportunity to spend some time in Dog Therapy sessions. This is a fantastic opportunity to work on communication skills and emotional regulation. I know this is something the children have really enjoyed and benefited from.

Kapow

Kapow is a new scheme that was implemented in September to enhance the Music, French and Art curriculum for the pupils at Moorhill. Children have reported they enjoy these lessons and have produced some fantastic work as a result. This is something we will be continuing to develop over the Spring Term.

Opening Worlds

This is another new scheme that has been introduced in Years 3 - 5 to enhance the Religious Education, History and Geography curriculum. This is on a roll out programme that will be introduced to all Year groups.

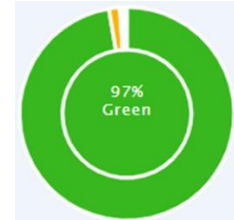
Engagement with Learning

This term we have really promoted our school rule of



Our behaviour tracking system has continued to work well this term. Track it allows us to see how many students make good choices & positively engaged with

school life & their learning. To date we have 97% of children who are always on green. Well done to all of those children.



Green – positive behaviour points
Orange – a polite reminder to engage with learning
Yellow – a second reminder & a check in
Red Track it for unacceptable behaviour where a restorative conversation is had with a senior leader.

We will start issuing certificates next term.

Coming up next half term:

Back to school: 8th January.

Wednesday 10th January: Parents Meeting

Tuesday 16th January: Year 6 teachers will be hosting a Maths and Reading club, to help children prepare for their upcoming SATs.

Thursday 18th January: Year 5 have an exciting day with the theatre company Loud Mouth working with the children on online safety and anti-bullying.

Monday 29th January – Wednesday 31st January: Year 6 will be heading off on their residential to Standon Bowers.

Friday 22nd January Miss Waterfield will be taking the choir to the Birmingham NEC to attend Young Voices, a wonderful opportunity for the children.

Tuesday 23rd January: Shaw Education Trust Videographer and Photographer in school, capturing pictures of Moorhill.

Friday 26th January: INSET day



Monday 5th February: Children's World Mental Health Day. Children will be learning about Mental Health and well-being this week.

Tuesday 6th February: Safer Internet Day

Thursday 8th February: Valentines disco on KS1 site.
Times TBC

Monday 12th February: Friday 16th February – Half term

Monday 19th February: Return to school

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day, details TBC

Monday 15th April: INSET day

Classes January 2024

Reception	Miss Stanford, Mrs Percival & Mrs Fellows
Year 1	Miss Eustace & Mr Morrissey
Year 2	Miss Snape & Miss Kaur
Year 3	Mr Bayliss & Miss Waterfield
Year 4	Miss Nickolls & Miss Ashley
Year 5	Ms Martland & Miss McHenry
Year 6	Mrs Hassall & Miss Robertson.

2023/24 Term Dates

Christmas Holiday	Mon 25 th Dec – Fri 5 th Jan
Children back to school	Mon 8 th Jan
INSET Day	Fri 26th Jan
February Half Term	Mon 12 th Feb- Fri 16 th Feb
Children back to school	Mon 19 th Feb
Easter Holiday	Mon 25 th Mar – Fri 5 th Apr
Children back to school	Mon 8 th Apr
INSET Day	Mon 15th April
May Day	Mon 6 th May
May Half Term	Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st May
Children back to school	Mon 3 rd June
Last day for children	Fri 19 th July
INSET Day	Mon 22nd July
INSET Day	Mon 2nd Sept
Children back to school	Tue 3 rd Sept

Please note that the school will not be

authorising family holidays taken in term time

Attendance

Our school target for attendance is 96%. **Class Attendance to date:**

	Sept – Dec 23
Reception	
AS	93.2%
LP/MF	89%
Year 1	
RE	93.4%
LM	93.3%
Year 2	
CS	91%
RK	94.8%
Year 3	
VW	94.9%
PB	96.4%
Year 4	
CS	91.8%
LS	87.8%
Year 5	
RM	94%
TM	89%
Year 6	
OH	92.2%
MR	89.2%
Whole School YR-6	92.1%

If your child's attendance has fallen below 90% (see your weekly text message), please ask the class teachers for advice on how you can help your child catch up on missed learning.

We will be sending out letters of intent to take statutory action against families who have children who are persistently absent.

Uniform

We are noticing a few children are not wearing the agreed Moorhill uniform. Staff will be asked to follow up on this next term.

If you have any uniform which you are able to donate to us to recycle – please send into the school office.

School Uniform consists of:

- Blue jumper or cardigan
- Blue or white polo shirt
- Black or grey trousers/shorts/skirt
- Black shoes



PE Kit consists of:

- Plain blue or white t shirt
- Plain black shorts, joggers or leggings
- Trainers
- Blue hoody/jumper or plain black tracksuit top

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE - NAME ALL ITEMS!

Class Dojo



Over the past 3 years, Class Dojo has been a vital tool in home school communication.

As a school, we will be using Dojo to share teaching & learning information as well as key events.

Any other communication/concerns should be called into the school offices so that they go to the most appropriate person.

Staff are also being encouraged to only have the app open in school hours & not to respond in an evening nor over the weekend & holidays. Can I ask that you please respect this unless in the case of an emergency?

Wrap Around Care

This term, we approached Farleas to consider our request to run a before & after school provision at Moorhill. They have come back to say there is insufficient interest & the business is not viable for them in its current state. Staffing & running costs would not be covered by the potential fees collected.

We will now look to see if we, as a school, can put a more long term solution in place. We will update you in due course.

School Meals – **ALLERGY & INTOLERANCES!**

A few parents/carers have asked about the school menu & catering for specific needs. Please see the link to Edwards & Ward below.



Welcome to the Edwards & Ward Family of Food

We are thrilled to announce that we will be your school's new lunchtime catering provider from the 1st of September 2023.

At Edwards and Ward, we take great pride in our special diets process and continually strive to make it as simple and inclusive as possible to help us ensure that all children can be fed safely and effectively.

If your child requires a special diet due to a diagnosed allergy, intolerance or medical condition, you will need to register with us.

Our special diets registration form can be found on our website along with a full list of FAQs .
edwardsandward.co.uk/special-diets/

In order to guarantee that your special menu is ready at the start of the new academic year, registration forms should be submitted no later than the 30th of June.

If there are any concerns about this, please contact our Special Diets Team for advice.



Please ask Mrs Hayward in the KS1 office in if you need any help finding out if you are entitled to Free School Meals & eligible to Pupil Premium Funding or check the link -

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Education-al-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

Safeguarding

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger telephone 999

If a child or young person is at risk of significant harm call:

First Response on 0300 111 8007 .They are open Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 5:00pm and Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Outside of these hours please call the **Emergency Duty Service** (EDS Out of Hours Service on 0345 604 2886



MOORHIL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter - Wednesday 13th December 2023



Or you can call a national helpline number (**free of charge**):-
NSPCC Helpline - 0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk
Child line – 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
 As a school we have our own Designated Safeguard leads: **Mrs Banks DSL & DDSLs – Mrs Snowden & Mrs Liley.**

Key Contacts

Executive Headteacher of Redhill & Moorhill	Mrs Banks
Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Snowden
EYFS Leader for Redhill & Moorhill	Miss Freeman
Senior Lead & SENCo	Mrs Liley
Senior Lead & Key Stage 2 Lead	Mrs Hassall
Lead Contact Staff member for Moorland Road	Mrs Snape who will then liaise with other senior leaders.
Safeguarding Leads	Mrs Banks Mrs Snowden Mrs Liley
Pastoral Lead	Mrs Andrews (currently absent)
Key Stage 1 Office	Mrs Hayward: Mon-Thur Mrs Cox: Fri
Key Stage 2 Office	Mrs Fletcher
Education Welfare Worker	Amy Cooling

Shaw Education Trust Surveys



The links to the Shaw Education Trust Survey is below– please take the time to complete it. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Parentsurveyterm12023>