



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you after the recent announcements regarding potential partial school re-opening.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience and support during this challenging time. You have managed the most difficult of circumstances with resilience and tenacity to ensure that your children and other members of the community stay safe whilst still continuing to learn and thrive from home and it has been heart-warming to see updates on Dojo and Twitter.

As you are already aware, we have been directed by the Government to plan for a partial re-opening for **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** children only in the first phase. This will commence from the 8<sup>th</sup> June (in line with Tameside's term dates). School has remained open to children of key workers during the period of lockdown and this will continue.

I have worked closely with Enquire Learning Trust, the Local Authority as well as reading the extensive guidance over the last week and will continue to act upon any further guidance. My priority is to reduce the risks involved in the potential partial re-opening of school to the community, our pupils and staff. In my first year of headship, I expected to face some challenges and indeed I already have. However, the challenge with which we have been tasked is the most difficult one I have yet faced.

I completely understand your anxieties and concerns around your children possibly returning to school at the moment and feel it is my duty to provide you with the latest information which I have available to me to support you in making an informed decision.

Although every effort will be made to socially distance children, it has been acknowledged in the guidance that this may not always be possible especially with our youngest children. These are some of the measures which will be implemented in school **as far as practically possible** in line with current guidance in order to reduce the risk. This is subject to change if further guidance is given:

- Children will be grouped in a 'bubble' of up to 15 children. Wherever possible, they will only mix with those children throughout the day and usually the same adults.
- In Year 1 and 6, they will be seated at their own desk and be provided with a personalised set of every day equipment which only they will use. In Nursery and Reception, the children will have designated seating spots for when they are sitting on the carpet.
- Staggered starts/finishes/play times and lunchtimes will be implemented so 'bubbles' of children do not mix throughout the day. One way systems will be implemented throughout school.
- Only one adult from the same household will be allowed to accompany their child to school. Adults who may accompany children to school will be expected to maintain stringent social distancing and there will be one way systems for drop off and pick up to reduce risk.
- Strict regimes of hand sanitising on entry and exit as well as regular sanitising and handwashing throughout the day will be adhered to. There is a hand sanitiser in every classroom.
- Cleaning regimes in school ensure that all classrooms and shared areas are cleaned through the day.
- Children (or any members of their household) who have any sign of illness such as coughing or a temperature must not attend.
- Children who are attending school and their family members are entitled to request a test for COVID-19 if they display symptoms.

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## Aiming for Excellence

Market Street | Droylsden | Manchester | M43 7DA

Principal: Mrs M. Taylor



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www.moorside-primary.net



- If a member of the 'bubble' of children or adults is tested positive for COVID-19, all the members of the group (including the adults) will need to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Children who are shielding or have been advised not to attend school by their GP should not attend.
- Children where members of their households are shielding should not attend.

Other considerations:

- Your child may not be taught by their own teacher.
- Your child may not have the same teacher every day.
- Siblings not in the year groups specified will not be eligible to attend school unless they are key worker children.
- Nursery provision will only be offered in the mornings.
- The usual Summer Term (end of year) activities such as Sport's Day, end of year/school assembly will not be able to happen.
- On line home learning will continue for years 2 to 5 only as returning year group teachers will need to focus on the face to face teaching at school.

The guidance strongly encourages children in the eligible year groups to attend. However, it has to be your choice as a parent and although I am usually a stickler for attendance, in the current circumstances, I believe the decision not to penalise parents who choose not to send their children back to school at this time is the correct one. This decision must be yours based on your own circumstances.

Whatever you decide, it is imperative for us to know your decision so that we can begin to put more firm plans in place and provide more information to those attending. Please could **all** parents/carers of children in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 only** complete the following quick questionnaire, indicating whether you intend to send your child back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June or not by responding to this <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=fDIWpBZLrUSzz1EJUVI-wrQPSIMBFspPoT2VQEUhpiRUQIhCSEkyMUszTVUxVkpFUTU5WFpXTUNUSS4u>

A text will also be sent out to the appropriate year groups shortly with the link on for you to respond. **Please confirm your response by 9:00 am on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May at the latest.** Please include your email address so that further detailed guidance can be sent directly to you. If at any point after that date you reconsider, you must inform [admin@moorside-primary.org](mailto:admin@moorside-primary.org) as soon as possible. Your child's attendance must be confirmed before attending.

If you have any further queries or questions, you can contact me directly on Dojo messenger or through the above email address.

On a final positive note, all the staff at school would like to thank our community of parents and carers for their support, engagement and patience. An example of the Moorside community spirit was perfectly illustrated by the recent fundraising effort for Kidscan which raised over £500. Our families helped to create the most uplifting video and showed what our school community is all about. We all remain proud to continue to serve our community and families.

Kind regards

*M Taylor*

Mrs M Taylor, Principal

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