

MOSSY LEA MESSENGER

MONDAY, 7th September 2020 VII· IX · MMXIX

A very warm welcome back to school! I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready for a busy and exciting term ahead. A special welcome to new pupils and parents to our school; I hope you will be very happy here.

The children all seem to have grown over the holiday and their positivity and desire to work really hard has been utterly inspiring! All of our new Reception children are settling in so well and they seem to be thriving already - we are so chuffed of them, and excited to see them grow and blossom with us.

Parents, I know you will continue to work with us, so your child can grow in confidence, with a love of learning, and a determination to be the best person they can be. We are all busy people, but it is important for you to put a routine in place whereby children know they must do their homework menu, daily reading, online learning challenges (Bug Club, My Maths) etc. At these times, turn the television/computer off. Try to use the television/computer as incentives for work done - they will value it more.

Can you ensure, that, as parents and carers you put a great value on school and education. Explain to your child that treating everyone with respect, being on time and in school everyday, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is important to you. These are also important life skills. The value you place on these will be the value your child holds.

Your children are your most important gift, treasure them, help them, guide them and support them. We in school will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way. Remember we operate an open door policy - feel free to book an appointment with Antonella or Andy or send a message on Class Dojo if you have concerns or need support, help or advice.

For those parents who are new to Mossy Lea!

The newsletter comes out every Monday, often littered with typographs, I get very tired at the start of term. Indeed I think I should do part time like the reception kids! The newsletter is also posted on the website weekly.

The newsletter provides lots of information about how you can get the most from us!

Although we are trying to shorten the length of them, they are generally lengthy (sorry about that), and occasionally entertaining... please do take the time to read them! Despite various proof read checks... they do, as I have already said, almost without exception, come out with humorous typographical errors, and occasionally confusing information - for example giving 2 different dates for the same event! I apologise now for any confusion caused; as you get to know me better... you'll find it easier to forgive me. I always allow myself three mistakes before you are allowed to comment!

Welcome once again; I hope you soon find happiness with us... Enjoy the journey...

What is school? It's all about relationships. This term, the routines and procedures of school will all be alien to everyone. But the human relationships that matter will remain the same.

Over the weekend I was looking after my God daughter, searching through my photos of me and my god daughter. A picture that caught my eye was the same pose each year on her birthday—I realised that not only has Margot grown, alas, indeed so have I, but the relationship between us has also grown, and matured. I pondered briefly about how much kids rely on the adults around them, and that led me to reflecting on the importance of the relationships between kids and adults in school.



Everything will be new for Margot this year as she reaches the dizzy heights of pre school. But this year, what really matters?

We can implement systems and procedures, we can adapt our practice and our approaches, and we can evaluate and adjust and respond to our new ways of teaching, and living with COVID. But we must not berate ourselves, nor each other if there are teething problems and a feeling that, initially, the new systems doesn't fit.

Margot, and our pupils will have seen far fewer children and adults over the previous months than they have ever seen before. They are not just - as some catastrophisers would have us believe - now dangerously deficit in knowledge. They've also not had the chance to nurture and develop their relationships with peers, and to feel the supportive culture of the wider school.

So, now, as kids everywhere return to a version of school, punctuated by so many new versions of what they used to know, I am confident that they will sail through, because what really matters to them are the people who will be guiding them through this next phase. It is the human relationships that make a school, the interactions between adults, and children, and crucially, adults and children. And I am proud of the relationships that we have fostered within the school community.

As adults in education, we need to remember the importance of relationships not just for our children, but for ourselves. On the INSET day, I spoke I spoke to our staff at Mossy Lea, and at St George's. I realised I had missed them all so much, despite seeing lots of them via video calls for months.

Because this is what makes our schools and our organisations so brilliant: the people. I carried on doing my work over lockdown and the summer holidays—more so than normal, but I missed being in the same space as the people with whom I work.

My 1st day in school, with the kids, was an emotional reunion and a heady relief that we could all be together, and pride at what everyone has achieved during these turbulent months.

Whatever the new term brings for us all - and the only thing we can be certain of is that it will be turbulent - we must not forget that it is people and human relationships that make a school.

When you strip it all back, to see Margot sliding down the playground slides, you realise she just wants to see the grown-ups, because that is what she's missed, and that's what makes her understanding of what a school is—albeit pre school.

Covid will 19 will undoubtedly be at the forefront of our minds for a while..... And probably impossible to shift from there in all reality..... but lets pop some other, traditionally normal stuff there alongside it, and keep reminding ourselves of perspective re this thing!

Some facts from the Regional Paediatric guidelines remind us there have been fewer cases of COVID-19 reported in children than in adults (1-2% of persons diagnosed with COVID-19 are <18 yrs., and most of these had exposure to a household member with confirmed COVID-19

That said, we will continue to be alert to the symptoms of the disease. The predominant signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children are similar to other viral respiratory infections, including cough (48%), fever (42%) and pharyngitis (30%). Other reported symptoms are; tachypnea (0-100%), nasal congestion (0-30%), runny nose (0-20%), wheezing (33%), diarrhoea (8-23%), vomiting (8-50%), headache (8-13%) and fatigue (8-13%).

If your kid, or indeed yourself, show any of these symptoms please do not come to school, and get a test, and keep us posted on the results, then we'll take it from there. I will let you know everything I can that is going on in school..... Not to panic you, or stress you, just so you can have complete confidence that you know everything. No ifs. No buts. I give you my word.

- If there is a positive case of coronavirus in school I will let you know.
- If there is a track and trace isolation that effects school, I will let you know.

Attached to this newsletter is the latest guidance from the LA on what we do with the different scenarios. COVID will pop in and say hello at one point..... That's pretty inevitable I think.

My worry is when there is a confirmed case of COVID in school. I will then, following a rapid risk assessment, and liaison with PHE, begin to send the kids home for up to 14 days isolation. Of course, will guide you through it all, that bits easy.... But please, I beg, remember, if I'm closing school, it's because I have to, not because I feel like it. I have no choice..... No ifs, no buts. It's right and proper. I would recommend, if I may, that you devise a plan at home for the closure of school, then when it happens, we can all beautifully and swiftly just follow the plan without raising our anxiety levels too high.

Dogs

We will permit dogs on the school playgrounds....Obviously they should be on a lead, muzzled if necessary, and you should be armed with a poop a scoop!

Sickness

If your child is off with sickness or diarrhoea, don't send them back to us too soon!

Please keep children off school for 48 hours after such symptoms have passed.

School Dinners

School dinners are free for children in reception, year 1 and year 2. They're actually pretty delicious! The menu will be issued on a Friday, if you would like your child to have a dinner, simply tick the days you would like and return (with the payment if applicable) on the Monday morning.

Uniform Policy

Your child's hair should be cut no shorter than a number 2, be of natural looking colour, and contain no steps, or lines..... sorry! Girls, hair must be tied back/plaited please.

Remember - you didn't just choose the school, you chose the rules and uniform as well - be proud of it. Embrace it. Support it. Don't spoil it.

School Traditions

I am never sure when a comment such as "why are we doing that," becomes "why do we not do that anymore?" or when does a new idea become a tradition? Or when change becomes a constant? I would like to mention one or two constants and changes and long established traditions that may come your way this year!

Please do not let your child come to school with nail varnish, earrings, trainers etc. Regarding "holiday haircuts" (including hair braids/ highlights) - as always, in the spirit of working together, we do turn a blind eye for a week! Hope this helps!

Equipment

Please make sure that PE kits are in school. They will stay in school until October half term. Also, wellies.

Please send a coat into school each day, we like to get the children outside as much as possible.

It is really important that ukuleles (KS2 children) are in school every Monday, we don't have any spare in school. If your child doesn't have their instrument in school, they can't join in with the lesson fully.

Clubs

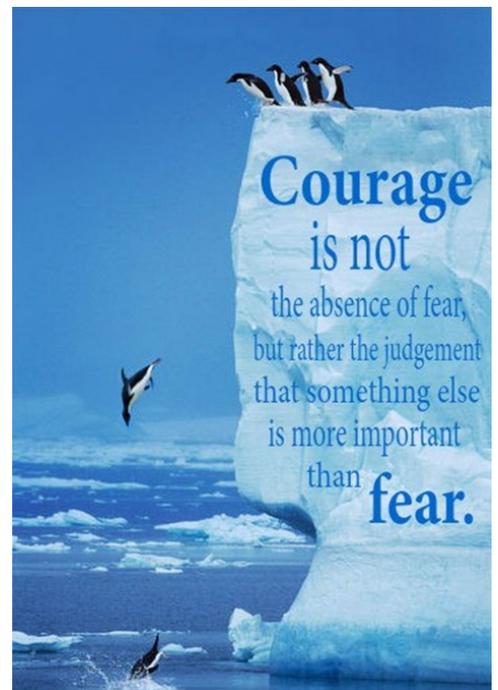
Before and after school clubs start this week, information was sent home on Friday. Please remember to book in with Antonella, either send a Dojo message or speak to a member of staff .

Holiday Leave

Please note our Policy on Leave of Absence. In line with Government instructions, we can no longer authorise Holiday Leave as a matter of course. Government are placing great pressure on schools not to authorise any holiday leave during term time. Both myself, and the Governors of course do want to work with parents, although of course you won't believe me if I have to refuse holiday requests for 2 weeks!

With that in mind.... I will look carefully at holiday requests for 5 days as long as exceptional circumstances apply, and attendance is 97.5% or higher. Please read the Attendance policy on the web site before submitting any requests! I'll certainly do my best for you, but like I said, I apologise now if it doesn't always feel like I am.

In addition, regarding the holiday pattern for 2021-2022, these will be on the website soon!



Quick Notes

Have you downloaded Class Dojo?

Have you followed us on Facebook?

Admissions:

If you have a child who should start school in September 2021 please ensure that you have read the admissions process on the school website , all your questions should be answered there.

May we welcome all of you back to school.

It's our pleasure and privilege to lead you all throughout the year, making a positive difference, sorting mistakes, and enjoying ourselves.

Embrace the challenges with gusto, safe that you are surrounded by safety nets... be determined, and confident as you better yourself each day, it's your time to make a difference and shine like the stars kids.

All the best everyone, take it easy, Andy