



Moorfield Primary School

Vibrant Loving Proud

7th January 2021

Dear parent and carers

I want to update you about my concerns for the safety of the community of Moorfield Primary School. You will know that everyone is at risk of catching Covid and this risk has greatly increased with the emergence of a much more infectious strain of the virus.

The situation we find ourselves in is very serious. The NHS is in imminent danger of being overwhelmed. That is why the government has instructed everyone to "Stay at Home". The intention behind the closure of schools is to ensure as many people as possible can "Stay at Home" as this will give the best chance for the transmission rate of Covid-19 to be reduced.

In March 2020, the transmission rate for the less contagious strain of Covid was successfully reduced. This was achieved through a lockdown in which people adhered to the "Stay at Home" message and this was reflected in a low number of pupils in school- approximately 10%. It follows that in order to achieve the goal of bringing the transmission rate of this more infectious strain of the virus under control, the number of pupils in school needs to be 10% or lower. Unfortunately, we have 30% of our school community accessing places. This puts them and the wider family they come home to at greater risk than if they stayed at home. I would be negligent in my moral and civic duty if I allowed this to continue.

We must reduce the school population as much as possible.

I know that having your child at home with you and trying to keep up with remote learning is hard, but this is not a valid reason to send them into school. If you are working from home, your child should be with you as this is the safest place for them - "Stay at Home".

You may think that your child will miss out if they are not in school, and in any other normal circumstance, this would be true. However, at this time this is not the case. The focus of the teachers now is remote learning. Those children who have to stay in school will have access to the same curriculum as is provided by daily, live on-line lessons taught by their class teacher.

For those of you who have your children safely at home with you please note that none of us are superhuman and I cannot ask you to do the impossible. I simply expect that children at home will be supported to do as much of the remote learning as you can manage.

Please can I urge you to only come to school if you are not working at home. The message is "Stay at Home". We must be the last resort for your child in this pandemic situation.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and co-operation.

Best wishes
Kathryn Heyes
Headteacher

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