



# Moorfield Primary School

*Vibrant Loving Proud*

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this finds you well and that you enjoyed the best possible Christmas celebration with your family. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and let's hope that 2021 turns out to be much better than 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming all of the children back tomorrow and we will continue to make school a fun and stimulating place to be; a place where they feel safe, looked after and have a sense of normality in these difficult times.

The current situation with regard to the rate of Covid infections, both nationally and within Halton, continues to be a concern and it is vital that we keep everyone in the school community safe. Last term the procedures in school to reduce the risk of transmission were successful, as there was no evidence of any infection spreading within the school. This was down to the discipline and hard work of both the staff and children, as well as your support with the new routines. This needs to continue this term and I would appreciate your support, especially with the following points:

- Please can you reinforce the importance of regular and thorough handwashing with your children.
- Please ensure that you maintain social distancing from staff and other parents and carers at the start and end of the school day. Please do not congregate at the gates, as this causes anxiety for other parents and carers who want to access the school.
- Please do not stop to talk with school staff on the gates and instead phone the school office if you have a query or would like to speak to a staff member.
- You must wear a mask, when you approach the school gates or are mixing with others immediately outside school, unless you have a medical exemption.

Please remember that you must not send your child or any siblings into school if they have the following Covid-19 symptoms:

- **HIGH TEMPERATURE** – this means he/she feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- **A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH** this means coughing a lot more than an hour, or 3 or coughing episodes in 24 hours
- **A LOSS OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE**, this means he/she has noticed that he/she cannot smell or taste anything.

If your child or anyone in your household displays any of these symptoms, **you must all stay at home until they have taken a Covid -19 test**. If they test positive for Covid-19 they will have to self-isolate for at least 10 days. Any member of their household will have to self-isolate for 10 days. If your child tests negative, they can return to school once they are well and you have supplied the school office with evidence of this negative result.

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Children should not wear or bring masks into school in line with national guidance. I hope that the situation improves with the introduction of the vaccination programme and this is the last term with these restrictive measures. There is no doubt that there will be a tightening of restrictions both locally and nationally and the school will continue to make the best decisions possible to protect the school community in the light of national and local changes. I apologise in advance if changes have to be made quickly without being able to give parents and carers much advanced notice. We will do everything we can to avoid this. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Best Wishes

Kathryn Heyes