

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems hard to believe that we are coming to the final week of a very long and difficult term for everybody. The extremely challenging times in early January have certainly moved forward, and we're starting to enjoy some spring weather which lifts everyone's spirit. The children continue to take things in their stride and we continue to be very proud of them for adapting and responding so well.

As we look back at this half term, we should take a moment to appreciate all we have achieved, together as a school community. The unreserved kindness, care and commitment that has been shown through our support of each other, enabling the children, as much as possible, to continue with their education whilst maintaining healthy mental wellbeing.

Best wishes

Kathryn Heyes

Easter Egg Competition

This year's Easter Egg Competition will be slightly different than usual as we are inviting all children to design and create an 'Easter Eggshibit' containing a decorated egg at home and submitting a photograph of their entry onto their class Teams page, to be judged on Thursday 1st April. The only rule is that there is at least one decorated egg in the eggshibit.



Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd prize for each class, with an overall EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 winner.

Remember the more 'eggstraordinary' the contribution, the more chance you have of winning an Easter Egg Prize.

Homework

A survey, around our approaches to homework, was sent out earlier today. The intention of this is to find out ways in which we can help parent/carers to support their child's learning, at home.

As so many of you will still have remote learning fresh in your memory, we felt that this was a good time to do this, so we can plan to support you as much as we can. Please take some time to respond to the survey as we very much value your thoughts and opinions.

The survey is available to complete on ParentApps—Surveys—Using Teams at home.



Mental Health Week

Thank you to all our families and children who have shared some of the wonderful ways they 'expressed' themselves during our celebration of Children's Mental Health Week. We are in the process of putting together a celebration video and hope to share this with you soon.

It remains vitally important that we continue to promote positive mental health for our children and ourselves.

Some top tips:

- Try to limit screen time - especially in the hours before bed
- Try to maintain a routine - even if this is just taking a walk
- Play together - jigsaws, colouring, baking, craft - anything creative will make you both feel good
- Keep to regular bedtimes and ensure plenty of sleep

For ideas, help and support the following websites are very useful:

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/supporting-your-child-s-mental-health/>

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact/children-and-families/good-mental-health/>

Growth Mindset

During Mental Health Week, we introduced the children to the idea of a 'growth mindset'. This is something that all the staff in school have become passionate about after taking part in extensive staff training sessions. The prevailing idea is that if we want to be better at something or improve then we must work for this. Acquiring new learning and knowledge is tricky because our brains are busy learning something new. Think about a baby learning to walk. They try and they try and they try. They will fall, they will stumble and sometimes even hurt themselves in the process, but they will not give up! A baby has a natural 'growth mindset' - they will continue to try (and try in new ways too) until they master their new skill - walking.

At Moorfield we are continuously learning and sometimes it will be trickier than others. However, we would really like to explicitly nurture a 'growth mindset' in our children. These are some phrases you may begin to hear more of and you may like to use them at home too:

- It's okay to make a mistake...what did you learn?
- It's meant to be tricky...we grow by challenging ourselves.
- When a child says 'I can't' - you can't do it yet but I can help you learn.
- Shall we try a different strategy?
- Would you like a challenge?

This website's 'about' section will give you more insight to 'growth mindset':
<https://www.growyourmindset.co.uk/about>

Mrs Williamson



Is your child a young carer?

What is a young carer?

You're a young carer if you're under 18 and help to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem. If you're a young carer, you may help to look after your mum or dad or care for a brother or sister. You may do extra jobs in and around the home, such as cooking, cleaning or helping someone get dressed and move around. You may also give a lot of physical help to a brother or sister who's disabled or ill. Along with doing things to help your brother or sister, you may be giving them and your parent's emotional support, too.

It is very important that young carers receive support in school. If you think your child is a young carer, then please get in touch with Mrs. Williamson via the school office.

Social Media as a forum for parents' views

Some time ago I shared the letter below, with our school community but the school governors and I feel it important to share it again.

Dear Parents and Carers,

All staff in our school work tremendously hard to provide the very best education for all children and always want to work in partnership with parents and the wider community.

However, we recognise that there will be occasions where, for whatever reason, you as a parent may not agree with a particular course of action or may have specific concerns.

It is entirely natural to discuss school life and express our thoughts and opinions with others, face to face or on the phone. Some of these conversations are now also being aired on social media and the person posting has little control over who might ultimately see it.

Sadly, some of these comments and observations can cause offence to the majority of our parents when aired in the public domain, and may in some cases be misrepresentative—at worst untrue, intimidating or even slanderous. We have taken action in the past, when necessary, and we will continue to follow 'social media use' policies to protect our school and our children.

This is not to suggest that teachers, staff, governors and the head teacher are above criticism or do not welcome feedback. However, it is always best when this is constructive and reasonable and is focused on finding an acceptable solution. When difficult things need to be said, it is usually best to do so face-to-face, or at least in some form of private communication. We live in a society where we are proud of our right to freedom of speech and would not wish to suggest that this should be curtailed in any way.



If you wish to resolve an issue and are truly unhappy, posting it on social media will not help the problem. You can only help things get better by communicating directly with the school.

Unfortunately we continue to experience an increasing number of situations where social media has been the vehicle for complaints by parents and, in some cases, personal vendettas against individual members of staff. We are often shown social media communication that criticises the school or staff by stakeholders who wish to retain the school's good reputation and also take offense at the discredit that can often be seen.

Some recent examples of ill-considered use of social media have been defamatory and have held members of staff up for ridicule and have encouraged negative comments - many from individuals whose children have not been part of the school community for many years. They also do not allow school to respond and try to rectify the alleged issue or problem. On the positive side there have been many supporting comments from those parents who do not agree with the sentiments shared via the social media platform and as a staff this is very much appreciated.

Our children and most of our parents and families want to feel proud of the school they attend. It is detrimental to the school's reputation when there are posts made that are constantly complaining. Your children are very proud of Moorfield and what they achieve; they get anxious when they hear constant negativity about the school that they themselves attend.

We need to set the best example for our children, so we would urge you to think before you type/post and also consider the school's home-school agreement. We hope that your child's time at Moorfield Primary School is happy and productive. We are always keen to discuss matters with parents, to ensure that every child achieves his or her full potential. If, at any time, you have any concerns about your child at school, then please do not hesitate to contact the school and, if necessary, make an appointment to see relevant staff members to discuss any issue. Please address them through the appropriate channels, i.e. a discussion with the class teacher, phase lead, deputy head teacher or head teacher, rather than expressing your concerns online. In this way, your school can work with you to address any concerns that you may have. If we do have sight of posts that raise concerns or issues, we will contact you to invite you to a meeting or we will write to you - taking your post as a written formal complaint. We do have the right to ask you to remove any detrimental posts and we will support you to a positive conclusion or signpost to alternative provision if appropriate.

Final thoughts

We have no wish to stifle debate or discourage parents expressing their views, but want to encourage and **promote positive role models** in both the digital world as well as the real world. Whilst our children may be the more knowledgeable in using modern communication technologies, it is the partnership of schools and parents that can help them to use it wisely, safely and responsibly. We would like to thank all our families who work together with us. A positive partnership with supportive parents is proven to result in children succeeding.

We value and appreciate your continued support.

Thanking you
Kathryn Heyes
Headteacher



Common questions

1. If the site I post comments on is 'private' then why should I worry what I say, as only my 'friends' can read it?

Once a comment has been posted there is nothing to stop other users forwarding or sharing it. What started as an initial 'sounding off' can quickly spread much more widely and cause a lot of unintended hurt?

If you post images or comments on Facebook, you run the risk of that content becoming a matter of public record, even if your posts are intended only towards a finite or limited group of individuals

Online social information is treated as 'public' as opposed to 'private'. You may also wish to consider the risk of putting your children in to the public forum which may be detrimental to them in the future.

2. How could the Police get involved?

If postings are considered to be untrue, slanderous, threatening or discriminatory then the Police may become involved and have the authority to seize mobile devices and contact service providers. It could be deemed to be either a criminal or a civil offense depending on the content of the post.

3. How can parents help?

If you are posting on social media and it relates to the school, students or other parents, please check your facts, be considerate in the way in which you express things and avoid language that others might consider to be abusive, aggressive or threatening.

Please do not refer to individual students or staff on social media. This may result in police action or application of the school 'Acceptable Use Policy and the Home School Agreement'.

If you have a significant concern about an aspect of school life, please talk to someone at the school and do not post on social media.

If you have a specific complaint, please follow the school's Complaints Policy which is available on the school website under Policies.



Autumn Term 2020

INSET DAY: Wed 2nd Sept

Sch opens: Thurs 3rd Sept

Sch closes: Fri 23rd Oct

Sch opens: Mon 2nd Nov

INSET DAY: Mon 7th December

Sch closes: Fri 18th Dec 1.00pm

Spring Term 2021

Sch opens: Mon 4th Jan

Sch closes: Fri 12th Feb

Sch opens: Mon 22nd Feb

Sch closes: Thurs 1st April 1.00pm

Bank Holiday Fri 2nd April

Summer Term 2021

Sch opens: Mon 19th April

Bank Holiday: Mon 3rd May

Sch closes: Fri 28th May

INSET DAY: Mon 7th June

INSET DAY: Tues 8th June

INSET DAY; Wed 9th June

Sch opens: Thurs 10th June

Sch closes: Thurs 22nd July

1.00pm

Parent's Consultation

Parent's consultation will take place during the week beginning 19th April 2021. This will follow the same format as our last parents evening, with your child's teacher contacting you, via telephone, to discuss your child's progress and how he/she has adjusted back into school life.

Please look out for further information through ParentApps on how to book your time slot.

Mobile Phones in School

If your child needs to bring a mobile phone into school with them, in exceptional circumstances only (e.g. walking home alone), please complete the relevant request form on ParentApps, prior to your child bringing their phone into school.



Miss Heyes will then review this application and give permission if necessary.

The form is available for completion on ParentApps—Surveys—Application to bring mobile phone into school.

If permission is granted, the mobile phone should be switched off upon arrival at school and handed in to the school office, where it can be collected at the end of the day.

Under no circumstances should children keep mobile phones in their possession during the school day.

Halton Haven Beanies

We raised an amazing amount of £279.50 for Halton Haven Hospice during the Christmas period for the sale of the Christmas Beanies.

Early Finish—Thursday 1st April

Please can I remind all parents and carers that school will close early on Thursday 1st April for the Easter holidays.

All children will be leaving school via their normal exit gate and will be finishing 2 hours earlier than their normal finish time.

If children usually finish at 3.00pm, they will be finishing at 1.00pm, 3.05pm will be finishing at 1.05pm and 3.10pm will be finishing at 1.10pm.

Children will be having lunch in school before leaving.

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Change of Details

It is important that you update the school office if any of your contact information has changed, so that we can update your child's records. This includes emergency telephone numbers, home address or email addresses. Please complete the form on ParentApps to update school with this information.

If your child has been diagnosed with a medical condition, please provide a copy of medical evidence from your GP for our records, or if your child is a carer, please let the school office know.

If home circumstances have changes and you find yourself in a private fostering arrangement, please can you notify school.

Thank you

Parents' / Carers' Comments Slip

I wish to make the following comments:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Print name: _____

Parent / Carer of: _____

You can print and return this form to school,

You can email your comments to

admin.moorfield@halton.gov.uk