

Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parents,

We are all very excited to have our wonderful children back in September and staff have been extremely busy planning and preparing. Our focus will be to support children with any worries, concerns or struggles they may be experiencing as a result of lockdown and coronavirus. Please can all parents complete the short survey through the School Spider app so we can identify emotional and educational needs effectively.

Our whole school topic will be around children's mental health and physical wellbeing – see the separate letter for more information. Some children have been unable to access formal education for nearly six months when we return, so we will also have a focus on closing the educational gap in reading, writing, maths and phonics for our younger children.

What are the measures we will be putting in place to keep children safe?

Parents may have concerns about children returning to school in September. The government guidance states that the 'risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus is very low'.

'For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus. As a result, we can plan for all children to return and start to reverse the enormous costs of missed education. This will be an important move back towards normal life for many children and families.'

All schools are being asked to implement 'the system of controls' which will effectively minimise risks. The essential measures we will continue to implement include:

- a requirement that people who are ill or displaying coronavirus symptoms stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- measures to reduce contacts and mixing of classes

During the day, we will be encouraging social distancing, regular hand washing and advocating the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach in a child friendly manner. We will not be using hazard tape to mark out areas or installing screens around school. The only physical changes in school will be dots in the corridors to encourage social distancing when going to the toilet and the classroom layout will be slightly different.

In Reception and KS1, children will continue to access learning in their different areas and share some resources. Some furniture has been removed to create more space, but the focus will be on frequent handwashing and wiping down of frequently touched surfaces and resources. In KS2, children are able to work independently for longer periods, so tables have been separated with two children per desk. Again, the focus will be on hand washing and cleaning routines.



KS1 classroom with reduced furniture.



KS2 classroom with desks separated.



Corridors with dots.

Playtimes will be staggered with only one group on either the KS1 or KS2 playground at any one time so they can distance and play safely. Each group will have their own play equipment, and children will be encouraged to sanitise their hands and wipe down after use. Again, we will encourage social distancing within the group, but recognise playtime is for play and children need to be physically active!

It is essential that parents do not send their children into school if they have any symptoms to prevent the spread of infection.

Please find below additional information setting out some of the changes that will be in place in September. In addition to this information, you will find the following included in this pack:

- child friendly version of this letter for your child(ren) with photos of teacher(s), teaching assistant(s) and their new classroom – printed on pink paper
- curriculum information detailing what your children will be learning during our mental health and wellbeing topic – printed on green paper
- class photo cartoon card from your teacher – an end of year gift from the school

Remember, school will be closed to children on Tuesday 1st September but will reopen on Wednesday 2nd September.

Classrooms and Staffing

Class	Teacher(s)	Teaching Assistant
Reception	Mrs Booth	Miss Price & Mrs Middleton
Y1	Mrs Robinson & Miss Lyon	Miss Fletcher
Y2	Mr Andrew	Mrs Strong
Y3	Mrs Wood	Mrs Cassidy
Y4	Mrs Taylor	Mrs Brock
Y5	Mrs Massey	Miss Mead
Y6	Mr Thwaites, Mrs Boswell & Mr Houghton	Miss Myers & Mr Begley

Mrs Elwers and Mrs Wannop will be taking maternity leave and we welcome Mrs Wood to our team who will be covering Mrs Wannop and should be a familiar face to lots of families as she has children attending the school and has covered staff absences recently.

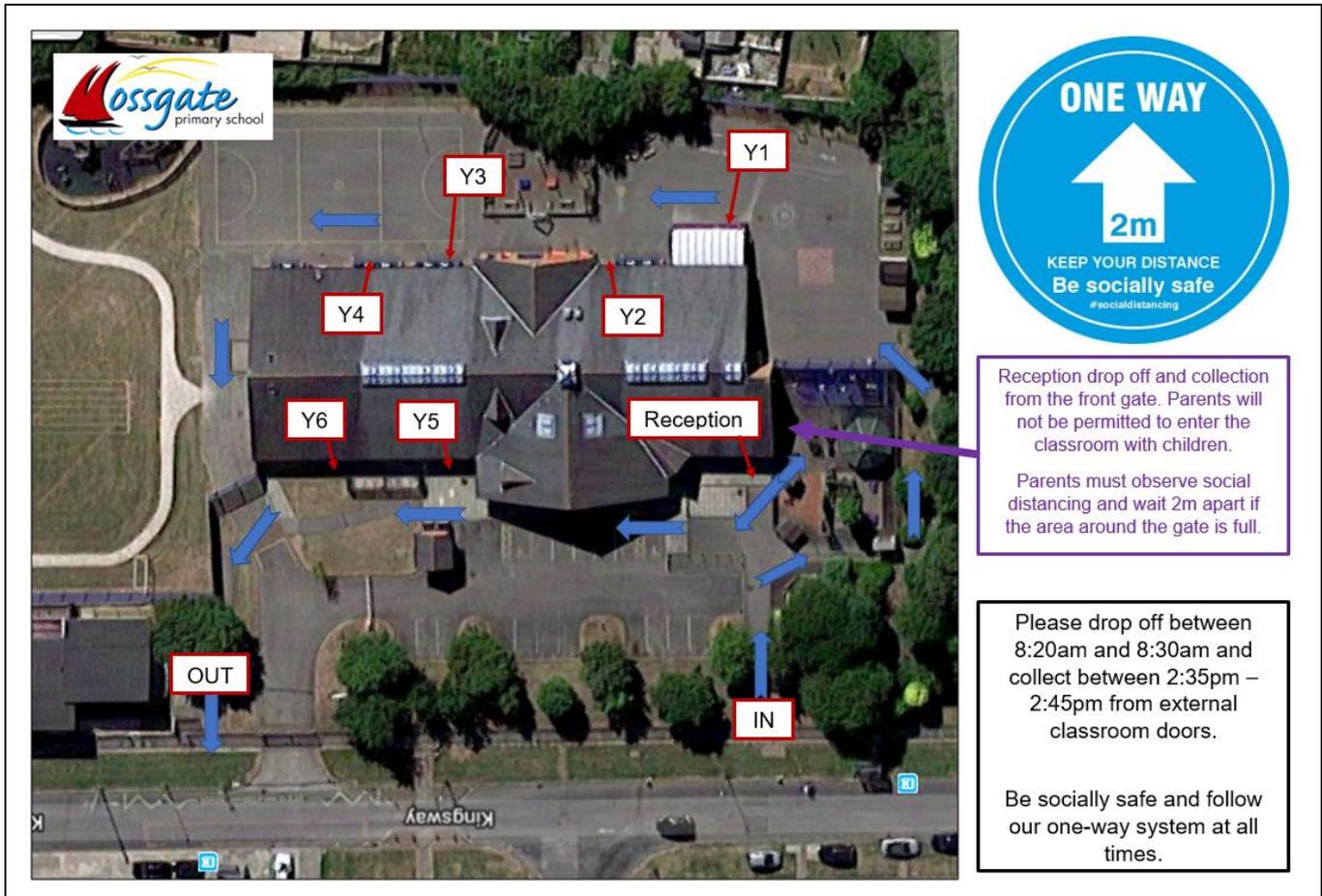
Mr Houghton will be increasing his teaching role across school and teaching in a number of classes from September. In the mornings he will be teaching a group of Y6 children, except on Friday mornings when he will teach Y5. He will also be releasing Mrs Taylor for three afternoons in Y4 and also releasing Mr Andrew and Mrs Wood for their planning time on a Monday afternoon with Miss Butler.

Curriculum

The priorities for young children at this time are resocialisation into the new style school routines, speaking and listening and regaining momentum with a focus on phonics and reading. Staff will plan learning for the different emotional and educational needs of their class and this will be informed by the responses we receive from the online questionnaire we have asked families to complete.

Drop Off and Pick Up Routines

There will be a one-way system in the school grounds for dropping off and collection. Children will enter the school grounds through the main gate closest to the school office, and exit using the gate next to the nursery. Only one parent per family allowed on site and please remember to follow social distancing guidance.



Parents are asked to drop off at class external doors between 8:20am and 8:30am. Please collect from the classroom door between 2:35pm and 2:45pm. We ask parents to keep at least 2m apart if waiting at the end of the day and to stand away from the classroom door so you can be easily seen by staff.

We ask that parents do not park in front of school, to again reduce the number of people outside the school gates. Wherever possible, please walk or cycle to school.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will return in September. Mrs Brock and Mrs Reeves will be based in the school hall with children sitting at year group tables to avoid mixing. Children can be dropped off at the hall doors from 7:30am – no child can be left before we open at 7:30am.

From 7:30am, it costs £3.00 per session and £2.00 from 8am. This includes breakfast, activities and childcare until the start of the school day when they are taken to class. There is no requirement to pre-register your child to use the club. Simply turn up on the morning as often or as little as you need the facilities for early morning childcare.

Attendance

Compulsory attendance will restart for all children in September and our normal procedures for dealing with lateness and absences will return. Any medical appointments should be made outside of the school day or after the register has been taken if needed.

Assemblies and Celebrations

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold assemblies as classes are unable to mix. I will be visiting classes on a Friday afternoon to present Star of the Week certificates, listen to reasons children have been entered into their class Golden Book and to celebrate any other achievements from school or home.

Uniform

Following our uniform consultation with parents in the autumn term, we will be making some minor changes which will make our uniform smarter and also easier for parents to buy.

The main changes are:

- Light blue polo-shirts instead of white
- Dark grey trouser / skirts / dresses instead of navy as local supermarkets stock a greater range compared to navy
- Keeping the current sweater and cardigan with embroidered logo (instead of changing to the v-neck) but making this compulsory from September 2021

Parents can continue to use existing uniform (white polos, navy trousers / skirts etc) for the new academic year in September 2020, but the following changes will be compulsory from September 2021 for all children.

- Mossgate embroidered navy sweater or cardigan with logo
- Light blue polo shirt (available with the Mossgate logo but not compulsory)
- Dark grey trousers with grey socks
- Dark grey skirts or pinafore dresses with grey knee length socks / tights

Changes for the summer:

- Navy and white gingham checked dresses in the summer with white socks
- Grey shorts with grey socks



Sweaters, cardigans and polo shirts with embroidered Mossgate logos are available from Young Ones, Marine Rd, Morecambe

Parents are welcome to buy the new uniform from September 2020 if they wish.

Black shoes and plain black leather trainers (no visible logos, detail or coloured soles). Children should only have laced footwear if they can tie them independently. We strongly recommend that children in Reception, Y1 and 2, and those who cannot tie laces, buy Velcro shoes / trainers.

Shoes and Trainers Allowed



- ✓ Plain black leather shoes or trainers with black soles and no visible logos or detail.
- ✓ Velcro fastenings needed for children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 and those who struggle with laces.

Shoes and Trainers Not Allowed



No white soles.

No visible brand names (e.g. white or grey).

No detail.

No visible logos.



No fabric, suede or canvas trainers.



No bow detail.



No 'slipper' or ballet shoes.



All footwear should be suitable for physical activity during playtimes. Boots, high heeled shoes and slippers / ballet pumps are not. Children will be asked to change into pumps if they are not wearing footwear which complies.

PE Kit, Equipment and Resources

Due to limited space in the classrooms, children will only be permitted to bring a book bag to school. These can be purchased from Young Ones in Morecambe for £4.99.

Children will be asked to wear their full PE kit to school on the day they have PE, including trainers. This will remove the need to change at school and reduce the possible mixing of children collecting PE bags. Children will need to wear a plain blue tracksuit in addition to their PE top and shorts so they stay warm when outside.



	Classes needing to wear their PE kit to school
Monday	Years 2 and 3
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Reception and Year 1
Thursday	Year 4
Friday	Year 6 with Y5 swimming – TBC

Lunch

Hot school dinners will be served in the hall from September with children able to choose from the menu daily. Lunches will be staggered over two hours with only two classes eating in the hall at the same time to ensure classes do not mix. Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 will still be entitled to a free school dinner.

Water Bottles and Snacks

All children are asked to bring in their own labelled water bottle from home every day. Please ensure this is washed and filled daily with water. Children may also bring a healthy snack (fruit) for break time – no biscuits, crisps or cakes please.

Parents Accessing the School Building

The main entrance to the school will continue to be closed to reduce the amount of contact office staff have with adults. If you wish to talk to a member of staff, please contact the school office by phone or email to make an appointment. Any forms or letters can be dropped off securely using the black post box next to the right of the main door.

Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning of the school will continue throughout the day. Every area will have a disinfectant spray and cloth so shared desks and resources can be wiped. Older children may also be asked to wipe equipment they have used e.g. scooters and laptops, so that other children can use them safely.

Handwashing and Toilets

Children will be using hand sanitiser and hand washing facilities throughout the day as it is a key strategy to reduce possible transmission. We will continue to promote good respiratory hygiene through the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach with boxes of tissues available in all areas. Children will be able to access toilets throughout the day, but may need to be supervised to reduce possible contact with other classes.

CATCH IT 

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

BIN IT 

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

KILL IT 

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.

NHS

What happens if there is a case of coronavirus in school?

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into school if they have coronavirus symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 7 days. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with symptoms, they will be sent home, with siblings, and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to the front office where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision if required.

I hope this letter helps to explain what will be happening from the Wednesday 2nd September and the steps we are taking to keep children, staff and parents safe. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school by phone or email (head@mossgate.lancs.sch.uk).

Take care and stay safe.

Mr Smith and the Mossgate Team

