



MOORLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



1st September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to School – Tuesday 5th September at 8.30am

We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holidays. We are very excited to be seeing the children on Tuesday 5th September. Our staff have been working really hard to get the school ready for them with lots of exciting learning opportunities. But here are some very important reminders to help you get ready for the start of term:

Don't forget the earlier arrival time of 8.30am. We would **really encourage you all** to arrive at this time. The additional time in school really helps boost your child's learning and makes a smoother and more successful start for everyone. **The playground gates will be locked promptly at 8.45am** and arriving after this time means your child will have a Late mark in the register and you will have to walk around and sign them in at the office. **Please make the commitment to yourself and your child** to get them to school on time as it creates the mindset needed for a successful future. Your child will really thank you for it!

The Government has emphasised the importance of getting all children into school right from the **beginning of term**. Those first days back are really important as they set good patterns of behaviour and help children to engage in their learning and wider development alongside their friends. Coming back days or weeks after all of the other children is **really unsettling** for any child! We recognise that holidays are cheaper in term times but every child in England is expected to attend school during term time.

However, if you do choose to go on holidays please remember to fill in the forms and be honest with us as the children **ALWAYS** tell us about their holidays. They can't help but share their lovely memories. Please believe me when I say that we are not being nosy or intrusive but it is our safeguarding duty to call, text and home visit until we make sure we have made contact with a family.

If you are ever unsure or concerned about whether to send your child to school if they are unwell, here is some information that you might find useful to guide you.

The link: [NHS advises](#) that it is fine to send children to school with a minor cough or cold provided they don't have a temperature and another link: [what parents can do](#) if their child is facing attendance challenges. Please take some time to read through this information. It will give you the confidence to support your child's

Playground gate

Dropping off from 8.30am

Due to the success and high levels of independence shown by the pupils last year we have decided to continue drops offs at the gate for all Y1-Y6 pupils. Leaders and the Wellbeing team will be at the gate to welcome your children and be available to speak with you if you need anything. All teachers will be available at the end of the school day to communicate with you all when you collect but won't be out in the morning as they will be supporting the children's early work.

Nursery and reception parents are encouraged to come into the classroom and settle their children each morning.

Collections at home time – 3pm

We have been working hard to secure government funding to widen the playground entrance gates and pathway. We are delighted to share that we have been successful in this but as we have only just been notified, the work is unlikely to be completed until the October half term. Therefore we ask for your patience and understanding during home times where high numbers of parents and children will be coming in and out of the gates. We ask that you keep to the left hand side and limit the amount of adults collecting per family.

Years Five and Six

Walking to and from school independently

Pupils in year six have been allowed to walk to and from school independently in preparation for secondary school. We have reviewed our policy and decided to allow Year five pupils to do the same if they feel ready. This is of course only if parents of these year groups choose for them to do so and is dependent on their behaviour in school. We will send out an email copy of the Policy and permission letter to all Year five and six parents/carers and paper copies will be available to sign at the gate from Tuesday if you choose this option. If you do not feel that your child is ready for them to walk the whole journey by themselves you may decide to walk them part way so that you can see them arrive at the gate safely.



School uniform

As you know children have to wear school uniform and PE kit at Moorland Primary School. We aim to keep the required school uniform to a minimum so you can buy black or dark grey trousers/skirt or pinafore from any supplier. But we ask that children wear a burgundy sweatshirt from Reception to Year 5. But for our returning year 6 children, don't forget that they switch their burgundy school logo sweatshirt for a black one.

You can purchase the logo school uniform from Kedaph Schoolwear www.kedaphschoolwear.co.uk, Unit A, Lennox Road, Bletchley, MK2 2HH.

or **why not visit the Community Shop in Beanhill to see if they have any 2nd hand uniform available.** If you are just checking your child's uniform, and you find that they have outgrown it over the summer holidays, why not see if the Community Shop could use it. If it's in good condition and clean, why add it to the landfill when someone else could use it?

Your child must wear sensible black shoes for school as the children use the outdoor areas every day. Your child must bring a coat to school every day as the weather can change quickly.

Please ensure all uniform items including PE Kit are clearly labelled with your child's name. This can just mean writing in our child's initials in waterproof/ permanent ink on the clothing label or buying from a supplier of your choice, iron-on or sew in name labels.

PE Kit

Here is just a reminder about our PE uniform: Black jogging bottoms/ tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt and trainers. Each year group has a specific PE day which can be found below. Your child must wear their PE kit and school sweatshirt on those days so that they don't have to change for PE.

Year Group/ Class	PE day
1- Hedgehogs	Friday
2- Squirrels	Friday
3- Foxes	Wednesday
4- Badgers	Wednesday
5- Falcons	Wednesday
6- Skylarks	Monday

EYFS will arrange their PE days once the children have settled.

Book Bags

All children will need to bring their school book bag with them every day. If your child hasn't got one, it can be bought at Kedaph Schoolwear Limited. The children visit the library once a week and can bring home a library book as well as their Reading books. The Bookbags are essential to keep precious school books safe. If a school book is damaged, then we will have to ask parents to pay the cost of replacing the book. Please remember to check your child's bookbag every day for important updates and information from School and so that you can encourage your child to read their book at home.

Early Morning Breakfast Club

Our Early Morning Breakfast Club has returned. Children can be dropped off at 8.00am for our breakfast club (Buzz at the Carpark gate and come down to Reception) if this helps you to get to work. Please book a place on the breakfast club by emailing the school office at least 48 hours in advance of the days you need: parentsinfo@moorlandprimaryschool.co.uk. Your child can enjoy cereal or toast for breakfast and some fun activities for £1.00 per day.

Absence From School Due To Illness



If your child is unwell, please telephone the school office before 8.45am to let the school know. You can leave a message on our answerphone. We will phone parents if we have not heard the reason your child is absent. **Good attendance is essential for**

your child's learning and progress, so please work together to make sure your child comes to school every day unless they are unwell.

Requests For Pupil Absence From School

Under current guidelines, school aged children are not permitted to take time off school for family holidays. If you need to take your child out of school, you will need to complete, **in advance**, a pupil's request for absence form which is available from the school office. Pupil absence from school will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Please help your child to achieve 100% attendance at School and see how much their learning progresses. Remember to write the term dates on your home calendar to avoid booking a family event which might lead to a fine being issued by Milton Keynes Council.



School Website

If you haven't looked at our website recently, please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with it. www.moorlandprimaryschool.co.uk. It has lots of useful information.



Emergency Contacts



There will be occasions when the School needs to contact you – especially if your child becomes ill or has an accident. The School may contact you by phone, text or email to keep you up to date with events and advise you of any cancellations.

At the start of term, we shall be sending home your child's Data Collection Sheet. Please check it carefully, update the information as necessary, sign and return it to the school office without delay (even if there have been no changes).

Throughout the rest of the year, please keep the School office informed of any contact changes especially telephone numbers and email address.



School Dinners

Here is a reminder of the deadlines for ordering school dinners for the next few weeks: You can of course order school dinners for the whole term, but if you miss these deadlines (including the August one for the first two weeks of term), your child will need to bring a packed lunch from home.

Don't forget that all children in Reception and Year 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school dinner. Children in Years 3 – 6, who are in receipt of Pupil Premium, are eligible for a free school dinner. But you still need to order the school dinner via Parent Pay: www.parentpay.com.

Deadline to Place order	For the Week commencing
Tuesday 5 th Sept	Monday 18 th September
Tuesday 12 th Sept	Monday 25 th September
Tuesday 19 th September	Monday 2 nd October

If your child brings a packed lunch from home, please ensure that it includes healthy options, such as salad, fruit or yoghurt. It should not include chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks.

Allergies

We have a no nut policy at School and ask that you do not bring in food items containing nuts into the school in packed lunches or for celebrations and events. This is to safeguard children and adults in the school who may have a nut allergy. Please ensure that the School is informed about any dietary requirements/ allergies when you check your child's Data Collection sheet which you will receive in the next couple of weeks.



Term Dates

Overleaf are our term dates. Please make a note of these dates on your calendar so that your child is in school every day.

Best wishes

Mrs A Garner

Headteacher

Moorland Primary School and Nursery Term Dates

September 2023 – July 2024

Autumn Term 2023	Opens 8.30am on Tuesday 5th September	Close at 3.00pm on Friday 20th October
Autumn Half Term		
2nd Half of Autumn Term	Tuesday 31st October	Friday 22nd December
	Christmas Holidays	
Spring Term 2024	Tuesday 9th January	Friday 16th February
	Spring Half Term	
2nd Half of Spring Term	Monday 26th February	Thursday 28th March
	Easter Holidays	
Summer Term 2024	Monday 15th April	Friday 24th May
	Summer Half Term	
2nd Half of Summer Term	Monday 3rd June	Friday 19th July
	Summer Holidays	

The School will be closed on the following dates for teacher training days and Bank Holidays.

Friday 1 st September	Teacher Training Day
Monday 4 th September	Teacher Training Day
Monday 30 th October	Teacher Training Day
Monday 8 th January 2024	Teacher Training Day
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday Bank Holiday
Monday 6 th May	Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 22 nd July	Teacher Training Day