

Moorfoot Primary School Parent Teacher Group

Minutes, meeting 10 August, 2020

The meeting was held on Zoom and chaired by Clare Howard, PTG chair. If you have any questions for the PTG, please email moorfootptg@gmail.com

UPDATE FROM JOHN DAGGER, HEADTEACHER

Moorfoot Primary had received guidance about the return to school that morning from Midlothian Council and sent it to parents.

Teachers are excited to come back to school and met that morning to go over guidance and ensure everyone followed safe practice. A number of teachers worked in hub schools and are taking a lot of that practice into school. Pupils will not need to worry about social distancing as classes will be kept apart in the playground.

The plan is to focus on positive relationships, health and wellbeing, and coming back together as a community. A number of children will have had very different experiences and be displaying different behaviour, anxiety or worries.

Teachers will spend the first few weeks revising key elements of the recent curriculum before moving on with new content. Numeracy and literacy will be the main priorities.

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered to allow children to distance themselves in the playground.

There will also be a celebration of house points.

Q&A

PE

There will still be PE lessons, and it is expected that children will come to school wearing PE kit and appropriate footwear.

DROP-OFF

Parents have received a map displaying drop-off and pick-up points. Children will be siphoned in two directions. One parent is welcome to bring in one child who will go to the class to and sanitise. These things can be modified and assessed on a week to week basis. The guidance will keep getting updated. If parents stand where it is marked on the map teachers will be able to send children out to you. The September weekend is a traditional point at which schools take stock. Things will be reviewed every three weeks.

UNIFORMS

Children are asked to come to school in clean uniform or clean, smart, practical clothes.

SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES IN SCHOOL

If there is a suspected case during the school day, the child will be taken to an isolation room, which is separate from the medical room. Their desk and any touch points (light switches etc.) will be sanitised. According to guidance, that is enough to mitigate against the virus in the classroom. A parent would then come to meet them at an exit next to the isolation room so they would not need to come into the school.

If there were two confirmed cases in school there might be further decisions about contacting families for test and trace and the school would be bound to inform the Health and Protect Team and the Care Inspectorate.

Please remain vigilant for symptoms [temperature, continuous cough, loss of taste or smell]. If you or your child develop symptoms while the school is closed e.g. on a Friday afternoon or over the weekend, please get in touch with the school. You can email Mr Dagger at the weekend on Moorfoot_ps@midlothian.gov.uk or call the school office on 0131 271 4640.

If you go to a testing centre you will receive a result within 24-48 hours. If it is a positive result, you will be contacted by test and trace and they would decide whether to contact the school or not.

Teaching staff have been given masks which they will wear if they are working closely with children. They also have transparent masks for children who rely on visual speaking cues.

SCHOOL MATERIALS

The school can send homework folders home daily. Children are bringing in lunchboxes and can bring in pencil cases, but library books will stay at home much longer and reading books will have to be quarantined. Everything else can be sent home. Please ensure that pencil cases are easy to wipe.

PACKED LUNCHES

Packed lunches can still come in boxes. They will be removed from the classroom until lunchtime to keep them cool. Please pack your child's snack separately in their bag.

HAND SANITISER/HAND CREAM

Although hand sanitiser will be provided, pupils may bring in their own hand sanitiser and moisturising hand cream to keep in their tray (e.g. if they have sensitive skin/allergies).

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS IN CLASSROOMS

Depending on their age, children will either be facing forward (p4-7). Younger classes will still be more play-based and not have an assigned desk.

NEXT MEETING/UPDATE

Updates from the school will be continuous and the parent teacher group will have another Zoom meeting after the September holiday.