



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you so much for your patience and understanding this week as the school prepares to close. It has been a week of unrest, uncertainty and massive change; we are now in a position, however, to move forward and we know what we are doing next week. For the majority of the children, this will be their last day in school for the foreseeable future; I want you to know that I will miss my daily interaction with them and sharing in their learning and successes. It is a really sad situation and I look forward to the day we can all get back to doing what we do best – learning.

### **Children Staying at Home**

For those children who are staying at home for the foreseeable future, we are sending home today packs of learning which will include activities to keep them ticking over but more importantly, they will have links to websites and activities online that you can subscribe / use for free. These links are also available on our new "Learning from Home" page, on our website. [www.moorgateacademy.co.uk/curriculum-2/learning-from-home](http://www.moorgateacademy.co.uk/curriculum-2/learning-from-home)

Please be assured, as per government advice, that by not coming to school, your children are not missing out. Those children coming to school will be coming for childcare purposes; **education is not the main function of school from Monday**. We will however, be working to update the website to continue to provide guidance and support for ideas while the children are at home. We hope you find them useful.

Children eligible for a free school meal can still have one. Dolce, our catering company, will be providing a 'grab bag' for children who are eligible for a free school meal. To retrieve this meal, you will need the virtual voucher – more information on this will be communicated when we have it. To minimise the risk of spread of the virus, school will be setting up a grab station at the front of the school for you to retrieve your lunch and go. This station will be open from 12:30pm – 1pm.

### **Children Coming to School**

For the children of key workers that simply cannot arrange other childcare, we are open offering a childcare provision. Therefore, children are not expected to come in school uniform. Likewise, staff will be dressed more casually and dressed to suit the activities that will be happening that day / week. This provision will run from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March for the duration of the school closure including during the Easter Holiday (not Good Friday and not Easter Monday). **School will have approved your place today if you are eligible for this provision.** It is imperative that we know when you require the provision. We would like you to 'book' the sessions that you require and stick to those sessions. If there is a change in your circumstances and you don't require the provision, please talk to us about this.

### **School will be open at the normal times:**

7:45am – 8:45am – Busy Kids is open (£3 per child per session)

8:45am – 3:30pm – school is open for vulnerable children and children of key workers

3:30pm – 6pm – Busy Kids is open (£8 per session)



For this provision, all children will enter and leave through the main entrance (only a limited part of the building will be accessible). School will follow 'normal' procedures for attendance throughout this period. If we are expecting your child in school (because you have booked the session) and they don't arrive, we will contact you to provide a reason for their absence.

We have created a daily plan for what the children will do which includes learning time (times tables, reading, spelling etc.), activity time (projects, experiments, etc.), creative time (music, crafts, drama), Forest Schools Time (bug hunts, fire pit, journey sticks) and Down Time (TV, films, Colouring, Library, gaming, board games).

We have also ensured that children will be having a meal whilst they are in school; children are still able to bring in a packed lunch with them if they would like. The menus will offer a hot and cold option and again, when I have more information on this, I'll let you know.

### **Keeping in touch with school**

School will be operating on skeleton staffing during this period however, we are endeavouring to ensure that we are there for you when you need us. Either Mrs. Eaglefield, myself or both of us will be in school every day and will make ourselves available. Likewise, the school office will be open every day between the hours of 8:30am – 4pm. We will all still be answering emails, voicemails, messages etc. as soon as we can.

Likewise, you can still keep in touch with your class teacher via the class email system. As a reminder, the email address is [class\\_@moorgateacademy.co.uk](mailto:class_@moorgateacademy.co.uk) (next to class you need your child's class name a, b, c etc.). We will also be adding things to the website often and posting on social media. We will also be sending out messages to our families via text to keep in touch.

I want to stress that my advice to you is to always follow the government guidance. Where possible, stay at home and keep your children at home. Wash your hands often, abide by social distancing rules and self-isolate if you are showing symptoms. This is an unprecedented situation and we are all working around the clock at the moment to provide a service which supports the national effort.

Take care, stay safe and hope to see you all back in school when all this is over.

My kindest and most sincere regards,

Mr. J. Williams (Headteacher)