



Moorlands Church of England Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mr Kevin Lee

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Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

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Dear Parents,

Half-Term is now upon us and what a busy seven weeks it has been in school! Such a lot of amazing work has gone on in the school and our children and staff have not only worked extremely hard, but they have settled into an increasingly normal school routine.

Clubs and School Life

We have been able to restart music lessons and clubs and these have both been a great success. Our sports, Karate and Special Ops clubs in particular have proven to be a huge hit. As I go around the school, I can see the fruits of everybody's hard work, happy children and fabulous displays of creativity.. A particular favourite of mine currently is Year 1/2 's work on 'Odd Dog Out' but I have also been bowled over by Year 3/4 and their work on the Egyptians and Year 5/6 and their stunning work based on the book Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo. The sensitivity and empathy displayed in their writing about life in a World War One trench has been wonderful to behold. The children and staff in Robins and Hedgehogs all came into school dressed as creepy crawlies today so we had ladybirds, spiders, caterpillars, bees and even a snail!

Recovery

The children now follow all of the enhanced routines in school without a second thought and that feeling of normal is a big part of creating a relaxed, purposeful environment. There has rightly been a huge amount of talk of 'catch-up' in schools, although we prefer to use the term 'recovery.' We have developed a plan for the short, medium and long term that we think will enable us to support the children in the best way that we can. We're already running before, after and in-school interventions for children, as well as tailoring what we teach in order to close some of the more fundamental gaps created by lost learning. We've also engaged with the National Tutoring Programme for a pilot group of children. After half-term, Mrs Surridge will be returning to school after maternity and for the remaining weeks, will be used as an intervention teacher to work with individuals and groups, before returning to a class teacher role in September.

Morning Drop-Off Times

After half-term, we will continue to follow all current rules around social distancing, bubbles and enhanced hygiene that we are currently following. We would ask that parents continue to socially distance and use face coverings when on-site. This way, we continue to protect each other until everybody has been vaccinated. One change that we are going to make though is **to revert to an 8.40 to 8.50 drop off window in the mornings**. We believe that the site is big enough and there are enough different entrances to make this achievable in a safe way but please, still maintain social distancing.

Fiddle Toys

There has been an increase in so-called 'fiddle toys' appearing in school and these have started to cause some real problems, both in class and on the playground. Unfortunately, they can cause a very significant distraction in class and have the opposite effect of their intention and can cause problems on the playground with children swapping them and then changing their minds. Please make sure that your child keeps any 'fiddle toys' at home.

Empathy Day

National Empathy day is Thursday 10th June. It is the fifth time we will have celebrated this. Our focus this year is exploring diversity, anti-racism and inclusion. We are also organising a fun run to support the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation.

I hope that you all get to enjoy some of the forecast good weather and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 7th June 2021.

Take care everybody.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Lee', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Lee
Head Teacher