



Elm Class enjoyed welcoming parents into class for their "Come and see how we learn" event on Friday.

Mother's Day Gifts

Mossgate PSFA are once again organising Mother's Day gifts for children to buy and decorate. This year, it will be a candle in a jar such as the ones shown in the image opposite. Children will be able to come into school to decorate (date TBC) or can choose to decorate at home. For any families who would like to purchase one of the candle gifts, these are now available on ParentPay. The deadline to sign up is Friday 1st March.

We would be grateful of any donations of empty jars families have. Please bring these to the office during the first week back. If you have any problems logging into or using ParentPay, please contact the office. Many thanks to Amy Brown for organising.



Changes to Home Reading and Homework

At Mossgate, we regularly review and update policies and related practices to ensure they are fit for purpose and relevant to current good practice. Staff have recently reviewed our home reading and homework systems and changes to these are detailed below by Mrs Booth and Mr Thwaites.

EYFS & KS1 Home Reading

Recently, staff reviewed our systems for the monitoring, recording & celebration of Home Reading in EYFS & KS1. We will continue to:

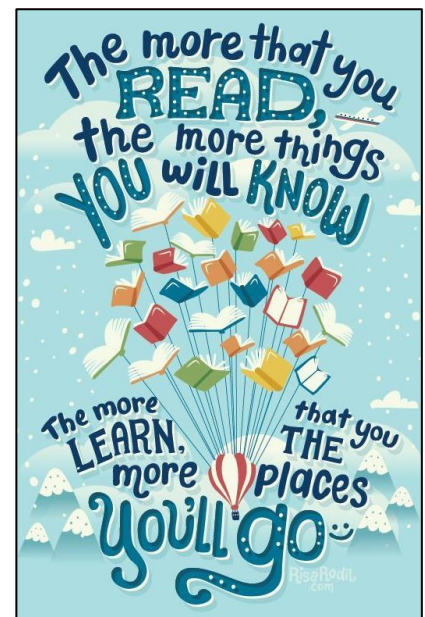
- ☉ Expect daily home reading with an adult.
- ☉ Encourage the re-reading of texts more than once to develop reading fluency – this is why we only change weekly.
- ☉ Monitor children's reading records every Friday – at least four signatures a week please.
- ☉ Change books that have been read every Friday.
- ☉ Encourage parents to read more often with their child if records show limited reading entries.
- ☉ Report on your child's home reading on their end of year report.

We will no longer use the tiered system of contacting parents weekly. However, teachers will contact parents if there's a concern about the amount of home reading taking place over time.

In addition, we will no longer be awarding reading certificates half termly. The main reason for this is that young children need support from an adult to read regularly at home and meet their target. Children who have not received certificates in the past often get upset and we feel that this unfairly penalises the child for something that is no fault of their own. Instead, we want to make our celebration of reading less focused on individuals and reward the whole class. Rewards we propose include:

- ☉ Special story session with a 'VIP' e.g. Mr Smith, school governor, volunteers, older children from KS2.
- ☉ Additional visits to Heysham Library.
- ☉ New book(s) for the class library.
- ☉ Additional Bedtime Bear(s) to take home.
- ☉ Reading Buddy time - with children from a KS2 class pairing up and reading a younger child a favourite story of theirs.

As you can see, we want to reward reading with more reading!
Mrs Booth (EYFS & KS1 English Leader)



KS2 Home Reading

Your child will continue to choose their own home reading book from our school library based on their reading level – all books have a decimal code on their spine indicating the book's complexity. Within each level, there's a wide selection of books which vary in length, themes and genres.



Children are asked to read at least one book every week and score 80% or higher on their quiz to show that they have read and understood the book. Quiz scores will continue to be checked every Thursday by staff in your child's class. If they choose a longer novel, which staff believe will be a challenge to read within a week, your child will have two or three weeks to read the book and quiz. Children will be notified of this and it will also be recorded in their Reading Record so parents are also aware.

We will continue to celebrate children who put in extra effort with their home reading by completing more than one quiz or by reading a wider selection of books at home – for example library books. Please let us know in school by notifying the office or by sending private messages through our Facebook page.

We understand that from time-to-time, unexpected events can prevent your child from reading at home like family illness or bereavements. If this is the case, please contact your child's class teacher through the school office. We will no longer operate the weekly tiered system of notifying parents if reading targets have not been met. However, if your child frequently misses their reading target, their teacher will contact you to discuss appropriate support in school; this may involve your child using a small part of their 'free time' to read if they are struggling to find time at home.

KS2 Homework

After half term, children will be asked to prioritise home reading and will no longer have spellings, times tables, maths fluency or grammar activities set with time being allocated within the school day for these.

We recognise that some children and parents will want to practise spellings and times tables at home and this is down to personal choice. Your child's Times Tables Rock Stars details have been sent through the School Spider App and your child should know this off by heart by now. Children are encouraged to practise spelling the 'Year 3 and 4' or 'Year 5 and 6' spelling words, which are included in your child's reading record, and any topic words which are detailed in your child's half-termly curriculum newsletters.

As you can see from these changes, reading continues to be a key priority for us at Moss gate. Mr Thwaites (KS2 English Leader)

Reception Places for September 2024

We are delighted to be oversubscribed once again with 105 families choosing Moss gate Primary School for September 2024 due to our strong reputation in local area. An amazing **forty-six families** put Moss gate as their **first choice** which reflects the brilliant work of all staff at Moss gate and the support you provide at home as well. *'Working together to achieve success'*.

Dates for your Diary

Mon 19/02	School reopens – no clubs this week
Thurs 22/02	PSFA Spring Disco (£2.50 for entry, bag of Haribo and juice, entertainment and games)
Mon 26/02	Clubs resume
Mon 04/03	Academy Photography in for class & leavers photos
Wed 06/03	Reception walk to the post box to post cards
Tues 12/03	Governors' School Improvement Committee, 4:30pm
Wed 13/03	Parents' Evening with children's books – booking details to be sent next week
Fri 15/03	PSFA Non-uniform – chocolate donations please
Fri 15/03	Red Nose Day – fundraising activities to be organised by the Moss gate Parliament
Fri 15/03	Reception Stay and Learn Afternoon in the hall, 1pm
Tues 19/03	Y5&6 Be The Change Trip to Lancaster University
Thurs 21/03	Y2 taking part in Singing Festival, Lancaster Town Hall
Fri 22/03	Y3 taking part in Singing Festival, Lancaster Town Hall
Mon 25/03	No clubs this week
Wed 27/03	Y4 Virtual Ancient Greece session with the British Museum
Wed 27/03	PSFA Chocolate Tombola, after school
Wed 27/03	PSFA Easter Bingo, 6-8pm (£1 per book of 6 games)
Thurs 28/03	School closes for the Easter break



Children's Mental Health Week 2024

1 in 6 children and young people have a diagnosable mental health condition and our work continues to raise awareness of the importance of mental health around the theme of 'My Voice Matters'. To find out more, visit the Children's Mental Health Week [website](#).



Mrs Taylor and Kate, our Mental Health Practitioner, introduced this year's theme with a whole-school assembly on Monday. Kate also visited the KS2 classes to complete a short well-being questionnaire to support our curriculum planning to meet the needs of our children – results to follow soon. Throughout the week, all classes took part in a workshop around the theme of 'My Voice Matters' with Mrs Boswell and / or their teachers. Mrs Boswell has also been posting videos and resources throughout the week on our Facebook page. A huge thank you to Mrs Boswell for organising the week and for promoting this important subject to children, families and staff.



School Dinners

Our school meals are produced by our brilliant school cook Claire and her hardworking team who are employed by [LCS](#). Our menu changes termly and complies with the School Food Standards. We will be sharing photos of typical school meals on a regular basis to keep parents informed about portion sizes and meals. Despite the price increase at the start of the year, prices remain competitive at £2.40 per meal. Children in the infants are all eligible for a daily free meal. Juniors can use as and when by paying for meals on ParentPay. Please contact the school office for ParentPay details.



Safer Internet Day 2024

Together for a better internet

Tuesday
6 February

Last week, classes learned about how to **'Manage online information'** and **'Online reputation'** during our online safety learning as part of the national **Safer Internet Day**. We teach the children about online safety throughout the school year during our:

- Health & Wellbeing units in September: **'Self-image & identity'** and **'Health, wellbeing & lifestyles'**
- Anti-Bullying Week in November: **'Online bullying'** and **'Online relationships'**
- Safer Internet Week in February - **'Manage online information'** and **'Online reputation'**
- Computing lessons throughout the year: **'Copyright & ownership'** and **'Privacy & security'**

The BBC has lots of resources to support parents and children at home using these links: [KS1](#) and [KS2](#). The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) and [NSPCC](#) also have lots of easily accessible information and advice.



Wishing all of our fabulous families a lovely half-term. Now that the sun sets past 5pm, try to get out and explore our lovely locality and look for the many signs of spring. Mr Smith and the Mossgate team



Community News

Staff will often post details of services, clubs and events on Facebook, but I will try to include in future newsletters so that those not on Facebook will also receive the relevant information.



Virtual Drop-In for Parents and Carers

Every Thursday, 1-1.30pm

Advice for parents and carers as to what is available to support them from the Children and Family Well-being Service and the wider community

We'll provide: a warm welcome & listening ear; informal advice; information about groups & CFW offer; signposting to local support groups... and much more!

Please contact us with any queries
cfwlancastercommunity@lancashire.gov.uk

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 362 226 377 186
Passcode: ySbzbJ



FREE Big Cook, Little Cook

For 5-8 years old and their grown up

Starting Tuesday 20th February 2024
3.30pm to 4.45pm
at
Westgate Neighbourhood Centre
Langridge Way, Westgate, Morecambe, LA4 4XF

Enjoy time together with your child, and involve them in the process of making their own food.
Learn how to prepare healthy family meals on a budget that you can recreate at home.
Free ingredients included.

This course runs for 5 weeks.
To book on call 01524 581280.



INSIDE OUT

Come and make friends and have fun!

This group helps to support children who may be struggling to express and manage their emotions or are presenting with anxious behaviours and low self-confidence. (8-11 years - Key Stage 2)

In the sessions children will be able to:

- Explore wishes and feelings and understand worries.
- Look at ways to help manage strong emotions.
- Take part in creative and physical activities to encourage positive interaction with their peers.
- Build confidence and social skills.
- Meet new people and make new friends.
- Play games.

Most of all come along and have fun!!

Every Tuesday at Morecambe Library, Central Drive, Morecambe LA4 4DW from 3.30pm to 4.45pm

FREE to attend.
Just turn up or ring 01524 581280 for more information.



Parent Workshops

at Morecambe and Lancaster College @The Hub

Wednesday, 27th March 1.00-2.30 PM
Teenage Brain

Thursday, 23rd May 10.00-11.30 AM
Transitions

Wednesday, 10th July 10.00 - 11.11.30 AM
Parent Resilience/ Rest

If you would like any more information please email our practitioner Katie Lewis at katielewis@barnardos.org.uk



What's On At Our Centres?

January - February 2024

Lune Park

Ryelands Park, Owen Road,
Lancaster, LA1 2LN

Monday:

Baby & You (0-pre walkers)
10am - 11am

Tuesday:

Infant Massage (B)
10am - 11am
11am - 12pm

Chat, Play & Read
1pm - 2.30pm

Wednesday:

Development Matters
9.30am - 10.30am

Chill & Chat
10.30am - 11.30am

Colourful Footsteps
1pm - 2.30pm

Thursday:

Triple P Group (B)
9.30am - 11.30am

Inside Out (8-11 years)
3.30pm - 4.30pm

Bump, Birth & Beyond (B)
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Friday:

Mini Move & Groove
9.30am - 11am



Do you want to know more information about the sessions, or have a general query about what else we offer?

Give us a call on
01524 581280

Poulton Sensory Room

Poulton Sensory Room is available to use **free** of charge at Poulton Neighbourhood Centre.

Use of the Sensory Room is subjected to availability.

The following sessions you need to book on to join in...

Infant Massage
Big Cook, Little Cook
Triple P Courses
Bump, Birth & Beyond Courses

Carnforth

Kellet Road, Carnforth, LA5 9LS

Monday:

FAB (Breastfeeding Support Group)
9.30am - 11am

Infant Massage (B) Starts Feb 2024
10am - 11am

Development Matters
1pm - 2.30pm

Inside Out
(8 - 11 years)
3.30pm - 4.45pm



Monday:

Special Guardianship Stay & Play Group
9.30am - 11am
(1st Monday of the month)

Tuesday:

Baby & You (0 - pre walkers)
9.30am - 10.30am

Deaf Baby Group
1 - 2.30pm

Big Cook, Little Cook (B)
3.30pm - 4.45pm

Westgate

Langridge Way, Westgate,
Morecambe, LA4 4XF

Wednesday:

Teen Triple P (B)
1pm - 3pm

Bump, Birth & Beyond (B)
5.30pm - 7.30pm



Thursday:

Chat, Play & Read
9.30am - 11am

Infant Massage (B)
1pm - 2pm

Friday:

Development Matters
9.30am - 11am

Poulton

Clark Street, Morecambe,
LA4 5HR

Monday:

Development Matters
9.30am - 11am

Infant Massage
1pm - 2pm

Wednesday:

Baby & You
9.30am - 10.30am

Friday:

FAB
(Breastfeeding Support Group)
10.30am - 12.30pm



The Community Midwives Team and HRCG (Health Visitors) hold clinics across all our centres Monday to Friday.

To book into these please contact them on the following numbers:

Midwives: 01524 583367
Health Visitors: 03002470040



Need advice/support? Citizen Advice and Smoking Cessation in pregnancy hold clinics at our centres.

To book on, please contact them on the following numbers:

Citizen Advice: 01524 581280
Smoking Cessation: 07811072610

Morecambe Library

Central Drive, Morecambe, LA4 5DL

Monday:

Move & Groove (8 -11 years)
3.30pm - 4.45pm

Tuesday:

Young Parents to Be
1pm - 3pm

Inside Out (8 - 11 years)
3.30pm - 4.45pm



Lancaster and Morecambe Family Zone
For more information contact us on 01524 581280

