

Northern Infant School

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Northern Junior School

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Junior School Update - Social distancing

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been great pleasure to see children return over the last few days, positive and excited about being in school. We have all been amazed at how quickly they have settled, despite the limited transition sessions last term.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all get to grips with new ways of working at the start of the academic year. Apologies to year 3 parents, as some of you did not receive a letter in the last week of the holiday. This was due to a technical error meaning our (parent-mail) system had not been updated. This letter can be found on the website.

<https://www.northern-jun.hants.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/September-update-2020.pdf>

<https://www.northern-jun.hants.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/frequently-asked-questions-sept-2020-Ks12-final.docx>

I am sure that like me, you have been keeping an eye on the news in relation to the daily increase in recorded covid cases, which now stands at over 2000 per day. There appears to be many factors contributing to this rise, inevitably much will be down to people relaxing with social distancing. The evidence suggests that children are less likely to spread the virus. Transmission and spread through a school and wider community is more likely to come from adults failing to stick with social distancing expectations.

Thank you to all those who have engaged with advice around using the one way system and maintaining distancing with other families when dropping off and collecting children. Please could we remind all parents to stick as closely as possible to the staggered drop off and collection times. (see below) Arriving too early leads to an increase in the number of parents waiting in the quiet area or outside on Richmond Rise.

	Drop off	Pick up
Year 3	8.30	3.00
Year 4	8.40	3.10
Year 5	8.50	3.20
Year 6	9.00	3.30

In the original letter, we did say that parents/carers of children in year 3/4 may drop off and collect using the one way system into the quiet area. This was in order to spread out the number of parents waiting together outside the school gate on Richmond Rise. Some of you have contacted us to say you would like your child to walk onto the school site in the morning and out of the main entrance at the end of the school day, without the need for you to accompany them. Having a balance of some parents dropping and collecting on Richmond Rise with others using the quiet area will help to spread adults and maintain distancing. We will assume you will drop and collect from the quiet area, unless you have had a conversation with the class teacher and or Mrs Morley to indicate otherwise. We are aware that some of you have already arranged this. Please contact the school for further information.

We are also able to be flexible with siblings for both drop off and pick up, so that you do not need to wait on site or on Richmond rise between times. Again, many of you have already been in touch to made arrangements. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need to.

The area directly in-front of the school exit gates on Richmond Rise has the potential to become a bottle neck, making social distancing impossible. Some parents leaving the site from both infants and juniors are having to walk through groups who have gathered on the pavement and are waiting directly outside the entrance. Please use as much of Richmond Rise as you can, spreading down the pavement, leaving sufficient gaps and entrances to the site clear.

We appreciate that for many that school drop off and especially collection time traditionally represents a social opportunity with parents sharing experiences. Unfortunately in the current climate this cannot happen outside and near the school gates. We would ask that as soon as you collect your child/children that you move off Richmond Rise.

For some we are also aware that it would be more convenient to use the Red Barn gate at the back of the school. Unfortunately this would not be possible with the current one way system. The pathway and gate itself is too narrow to ensure distancing.

A final reminder that if you wish to get a message to a class teacher or a school leader this needs to happen via the school office over the phone or through email, rather than face to face.

Maintaining distance between adults will be key to keeping any possible transmission and spread of the virus to a minimum. Therefore reducing the possibility of having to close the school to specific classes and year group bubbles.

Please be aware that all of the above will be the case for this half term, however we will continually review in light of what will inevitably be changing government advice. Fingers crossed we can get back to more normal arrangements in the not too distant future.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Mr Bailey