

Northern Infant School

Head of School
Rebecca Fullick

Tel: 02392 370693
Fax: 02392 214245

Email:
adminoffice@northern-
inf.hants.sch.uk

Northern Schools Federation

Richmond Rise, Portchester, Hampshire PO16 8DG



Executive Headteacher – John Bailey

1/9/2020

Northern Junior School

Head of School
Grace Morley

Tel: 02392 370613
Fax: 02392 383308

Email:
adminoffice@northern-
jun.hants.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

We look forward to welcoming all children back next week on 7th September. The advice from the government is that - *the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school.*

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that the risk of catching coronavirus (COVID-19) is low if schools apply a system of stringent controls to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. The measures we have in place are outlined in a detailed risk assessment which is available on our website, please follow the link below.

<https://www.northern-inf.hants.sch.uk/our-school/policies/>

By the end of July we had approximately half the children back in school across various year groups within the Federation, as did many schools across the country. The evidence from this period indicates that schools do not appear to be the primary driver for coronavirus infections in the community.

For further information please follow the link to a leaflet from PHE

<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-/resources/parents-leaflets/>

In the updated guidance for parents (see below) the government have been keen to point out that - *School attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school will apply.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

In the advice for schools, we have been reminded that - *the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including: - schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.*

However we are aware that some children may feel quite anxious as they have been out of school for such a long time and some of you may still be reluctant to send children in. If this is the case for you, then please contact us at the school as we can provide further support.

Where a child is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, (such as those who have been asked to shield) the school will provide access to remote education.

A reminder that children will need to be back in uniform when they return, however if you have had any issues sourcing uniform, please let us know as we can support.

You will have heard about the recent decision around the use of face coverings in secondary school. The recommendation to wear face coverings has not been set for primary schools, the advice states - *Face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.* Children from different year group bubbles will not gather in corridors or other spaces, as they might at secondary school, therefore they will not need face coverings. However if you have concerns and would like your child to wear a face covering, please contact us so that we can discuss the safe use of this in school.

We have been asked to put in place a range of measures based on the advice and guidance. The system of controls related to prevention include the following areas.

1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.

2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual

3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often,

5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- 9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

The government have asked that we support parents and carers in understand that they will need to be ready and willing to -

- 1) Take a test if they are displaying symptoms.. The school will provide home testing kits once they are made available.
- 2) Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- 3) self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

As previously explained, children will be organised into class bubbles during the majority of the school day and year groups bubbles when outside for playtime. Start and end times will be staggered to reduce incident of groups including parents from different households coming together.

We would ask that children arrive promptly for their start time, (see below) please do not allow your child to access the playground. If you arrive earlier than your child's allocated time, we politely request you wait off site to support social distancing measures. We appreciate that some of you have siblings in different year groups therefore for you these timings can be more flexible. Many of you have already contacted us to discuss the best possible timings in these situations. If you would like further clarification please contact the school office.

	Drop off	Pick up	
Year R	8.40	3.00	At classroom door
Year 1	8.50	3.10	At classroom door
Year 2	9.00	3.20	At classroom door
Year 3	8.30	3.00	Parents may enter 'quiet area' to drop off and collect. Please space out in this area maintaining distancing and follow the one way system
Year 4	8.40	3.10	
Year 5	8.50	3.20	Please drop off and meet your child on Richmond Rise. Please spread out along Richmond Rise and avoid gathering at the gate.
Year 6	9.00	3.30	

We would ask that parents use the one way system on both sites, leaders will be out and about in the morning showing how the one way system works for those who have not been in school recently. We appreciate that parents may want to get back to normal, including sharing experiences with each other at the school gates. However we would ask for this not to happen just yet. In order for the one way system to work the Red Barn gate will remain closed for the first half term. Please could everyone access the site via Richmond Rise.

Northern Stars wrap around care will be in operation, split across the two schools with infant children using the infant school hall and junior age children using the community room at the junior school. Children from different class bubbles will be in the same space, however where possible year group tables and areas will be in operation. All parents who have requested spaces at wrap around care have been contacted. If you feel you require wrap around care, please contact the infant school office who are dealing with enquiries on Mrs Davies behalf or alternatively email directly to northernstars@northern-inf.hants.sch.uk

Other than Northern stars, all other after school clubs will be postponed for at the least the first half term in order to reduce incidents of children from different year bubbles coming together.

The advice encourages children not to use public transport where ever possible and encourages children to walk or cycle. If the use of public transport is un-avoidable please could you let the school know, as travelling on public transport requires a face mask/covering which will need to be safely disposed of or stored before entering the school. Both school offices will remain closed to all walk in enquiries in September, please use the school numbers and office emails for all communications. Officeadmin@northern-inf.hants.sch.uk Officeadmin@northern-jun.hants.sch.uk

Thank you for all your patience and understanding, we look forward to working with all your children again next week.

Yours sincerely,

John Bailey
Executive Headteacher

