



NORTHOLMES JUNIOR SCHOOL

Believe.....Achieve.....Succeed

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Dear Parents,

School Opening Plans – September 2020

As the term draws to a rapid close, I wanted to share our plans for every child to return to school in September and beyond. We have been carefully planning how we can best implement the most recent government guidance released to support schools to plan for September and I have to say it has been a mammoth task but we do have a plan ready to share with you.

Two key aspects of the guidance focus on hygiene and the grouping of children which has also been the focus since more children returned at the start of June. In many ways September will look and feel much like it did before lockdown. We have amended our current plans so that there are systems in place for hand washing, additional cleaning and how and when we will share resources. We have also spent time looking at what our curriculum will look like and how we ensure that we continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

In summary the school will be run as follows:

Children will spend most of their time in school with their own class but may mix at certain times with children in other classes. This could be for activities such as phonic/spelling lessons, intervention groups, playtimes and lunchtimes. When classes are mixed indoors, we will adhere to the social distancing recommendations as far as possible.

Lower school and Upper school will be treated as separate bubbles and these bubbles will run as separate groups within the school. Each bubble will have staggered break times and lunchtimes. This set up allows for children and staff to work across these year groups and for much of the normal running of the school to resume as before.

The practicalities:

Our current one-way system and process where children go straight into class has worked really well and has created a much calmer start to the school day.

In September we are going to continue this system but rather than giving specific classes different drop-off times we are giving a longer period for you to drop your children at school. Please avoid arriving before the school gates open so that we do not build a queue outside.

We hope that this extended arrival time will provide sufficient time for a social distanced and gradual arrival into school. If this system does not work as we had hoped and everyone arrives together then we will revert to giving each class a separate arrival time.



Start of the School Day

Children may arrive at school **any time** between 8.40am and 8.55am. Once the gates are open the children will follow the one-way system and go straight into their classrooms.

Lower School will enter via their external classroom doors and Upper School will enter by the far doors and go straight upstairs to their classrooms. Children will be given activities to do until the whole class has arrived. Children will not miss learning if they do not arrive until 8.55am. Parents may bring their child to the external door and then continue to follow the one-way system to exit the site.

We expect every child to be in school and on time but on the very odd occasions when a child does arrive after the gates are closed, please ring the buzzer on the gate and you will be given instructions as to what to do next.

Whilst using the one-way system please stick to social distancing. It will not be possible to have a prolonged goodbye with your child as this will prevent other children from accessing the classroom. Nor will you be able to speak with staff members at the door. The drop-off zone outside the school will continue to operate to allow you to drop your child without the need to park.

Bikes and Scooters

We are looking to relocate the bike and scooter racks to the front of the school but in the meantime children may walk their bikes and scooters around to the current storage space. At the end of the day the children will have a chance to collect their bikes and scooters before continuing around the one-way system and onto the playground.

Communication with Staff

Unfortunately, we cannot allow parents into the school unless they have a pre-arranged meeting. If you need to pass a message onto a class teacher or want to speak to them in more detail please email

Year 5 or Year 6 - upperschool@northolmesjunior.school

Year 3 or Year 4 - lowerschool@northolmesjunior.school

If the message is urgent then please contact the school office by telephone as these emails may not always be checked in time. Alternatively, if it is a general enquiry of you want to speak to a member of the leadership team then please email – office@northolmesjunior.school Please use the post boxes in the front foyer if you need to leave any letters etc. for the office.

End of the Day

Lower School children will finish school at 3.20pm.

Upper School children will finish school at 3.30pm.

Children in Lower School with siblings in Upper School will be kept in the classrooms so that they can leave with their siblings at 3.30pm.

When you arrive to collect your child please come onto the playground; do not wait outside the school gates on either side of the road as this will cause congestion problems. Please wait in a space (please do not gather in groups) on the playground. You may use all parts of both playgrounds to wait for your child but please ensure that you leave the area along the marked out one-way system clear so people can safely leave the site along a clear route.

You must not wait on the path up to the playground, on the wall directly outside the office or in the car park as it will make it difficult for others to pass safely.

Only one adult should come on site to collect a child. Younger children must be kept with you and not allowed to run around or climb on any furniture or equipment.

Also, please do not wait or linger and chat outside the school gates. Once you have collected your child(ren) please leave the site immediately. This is particularly important for those of you in Lower School as parents with children in Upper School will not be able to enter the site until the playground is clear.

If you are collecting children from Upper School, please do not arrive at school before 3.25pm to allow the majority of Lower School children and parents to leave the area.

If it is suitable, you may wish to meet older children away from the school grounds.

We are hoping that a benefit of the changes to drop-off and collection may mean that it is easier to park on the roads around the school as only half the parents will be arriving at any one time.

Procedures in Place

- Children will continue to be asked to wash their hands on arrival at school, before and after break times or when they leave and re-enter classrooms.
- Staggered break and lunchtimes to reduce the number of children outside. Lower School and Upper School will have different sets of play time equipment.
- Additional cleaning of resources that need to be shared between different classes
- Additional cleaning of high-use areas during the school day

School Uniform

We have been more relaxed with our uniform rules during the last seven weeks but when we return in September I expect everyone to be in full school uniform and looking smart every day. The things that we usually need to remind you about are

- Children must not wear boots or trainers as footwear.
- If your child's hair touches their collar, then it must be tied back. Please use small, plain hair ties.
- Details of our uniform can be found on our website.

PE

All PE lessons in September will take place outside (unless the weather is particularly unpleasant). In September, we will inform you on which days your child will be having PE. On these days they should come to school in their PE kit and they will remain in it all day. Please also ensure that earrings are removed before coming to school. We will not be able to tape ears.

Please ensure that their PE kit is as smart as their school uniform.

- T-shirt in their house colour
- Navy blue or black (unbranded) shorts
- Navy blue or black tracksuit bottoms (unbranded)
- Plain trainers suitable for being outside
- If needed their school jumper/cardigan should be worn
- A waterproof coat (PE will happen outside in all but the worst of the weather)

Equipment

Please minimise items brought in from home to school.

Toys, pencil cases or stationary are not allowed in school.

If your child needs to bring in any belongings from home such as a lunch box please ensure the bag is as small as possible. A draw string bag would be perfect!

Illness

If your child is unwell please do not send them to school. If you suspect that your child may have symptoms of Covid-19 please inform the school and arrange for your child and your family to be tested as soon as possible. Your family must isolate until the results of the test are back. Please inform the school once you have your test results.

What we will do if there is a suspected case of Covid-19

If a child become ill at school, they will be taken to our 'isolation room' which will only be used for suspected cases. It is ventilated and not our normal medical room. The child will be supervised by a member of staff who will wear PPE equipment. The parent will be called to come and collect their child. The family will need to self-isolate and book a test for the child.

The room will then be cleaned. Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.

If a member of the school community takes a test and the result is negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.

The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Northolmes staff will take swift action when we become aware that someone who has attended the school has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact us directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace. The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious before asking them to self-isolate. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.

I apologise for the length of this letter but it is important that everyone understands the new rules and procedures that will be in place from September to allow for a safe return of all our families and staff.

We will be on hand in September to help you navigate these new drop-off and collection procedures.

Kind regards

Mrs S Anderson