

8th March Full Return to School for all children.

We are delighted that the Government has taken the decision to reopen schools for all children and we cannot wait to welcome them all back on Monday 8th March. Teachers have been busy planning an exciting three weeks of learning for their return and planning ahead to after the Easter holidays for a successful and fun summer term of learning and hopefully some visits/visitors for us all to take part in! Even if it is just for a day at the beach, as a class!

With this return, we will of course be continuing with the protective measures we already have in place around school and will continue to do this until advised otherwise by the government. Safety of staff and children is of paramount importance and we cannot stress enough how important it is that you continue to support us with this.

Please read these important notes on the expectations when we fully open on Monday 8th March. I am afraid there is a lot of information but we must ensure you know everything to ensure the running of school is safe and orderly for all children and staff.

Bubbles in school

Children will remain in their class bubble throughout the day.

During playtime and lunchtime play, children will be in an area of the playground for their year group and so some mixing within the year group may take place at this time. This is unavoidable because of the limited space and time we have in the school day.

Being ready for school - 8:30am

Gates open at 8:30am.

Children are expected to be in their classroom before 8:45am.

Lateness into class can cause a variety of issues, not least missing out on learning but can also lead to disruption in the classroom.

We urge all parents to ensure their children are in their classrooms before 8:45am.

This means arriving into school before 8:40, not coming through the gates at 8:45am.

This will also mean, our front office staff are not inundated with late children mixing together in a small area of school.

Finishing times and collection points are as follows

Please note that all teachers will remain with the children outside until 3:05pm to enable the collection of siblings to take place.

Please also note that any child not collected by 3:10pm will be taken to after school club and a charge will be levied for this service.

To avoid overcrowding, please do not arrive onto the school playground way before your child's finishing time.

Y6 - 3:00pm - Outside KS2 gates
Y5 - 2:55pm - KS2 playground
4HS - 3:00pm - Fire exit (outside classroom)
4RG - 2:55pm - KS2 playground
4ES - 2:50pm - KS2 playground
4NG - 3:00pm - KS2 playground
3MH - 3:00pm - Y3 area (Remembering to not wait in the yellow zone area)
3SJ - 2:55pm - Y3 area
3JM - 2:50pm - Y3 area
2GC - 2.50pm - KS1 playground
2RD - 2.55pm - KS1 playground
2KT - 3.00pm - KS1 playground
1LP - 2.50pm - KS1 playground
1KW - 2.55pm - KS1 playground
1PW - 3.00pm - KS1 playground
EYHJ - 2.50pm - EYFS playground
EYRR - 2.55pm - EYFS playground
EYSS - 3.00pm EYFS playground

Playground Expectations - Social Distancing and Face Coverings

We politely remind parents and carers to not congregate in groups on the playground, it is important that social distancing is maintained on school grounds by all parents and carers.

If needing to speak to a member of staff, please respect their safety and remain at a distance of two metres at all times.

Please do not allow your child to play with equipment or play on the playground whilst waiting to collect siblings. Preschool children should not ride scooters or bikes around the playground.

Staff will always wear a face covering on the playground. We expect all parents and carers to also do the same.

Children do not need to wear a mask whilst on the school premises. Please ensure they do not bring one to school.

School Uniform

Children are expected to wear full school uniform from Monday 8th March.

School dinners

All children in EYFS and KS1 will be entitled as normal to their free school meal. This should be pre-booked. Forms for this will be sent home on Monday 8th March. Children in Key stage two (years 3 to 6) have the choice of a hot dinner or jacket potato only. (Or bring their own packed lunch). School dinners are £2.40 per pupil, per day and payment is requested in advance via parentpay, our secure online payment system.

Attendance and Absence

As announced by the government, attendance at school for all children is mandatory unless they have received a letter or email from the department for health and social care to tell them they must continue to shield.

Mandatory attendance means that it is your legal duty as a parent/carer to send your child to attend school regularly.

We appreciate some parents/carers and indeed children may feel anxious about returning to the school environment, but we can assure you that we have followed government guidance stringently to keep school as safe as possible.

We remind you that local authorities and schools have a range of legal powers to enforce attendance, if any child does not attend school without a valid reason.

If your child is absent from school, you must follow the normal absence procedures by phoning school on 01723362249 before 8:30am stating your child's name, their class and the reason for the absence. Please leave a voicemail if no one is available to pick up the call.

Bikes and Scooters

As with the Autumn term, no bikes and scooters should be brought onto the school grounds until further notice. This also applies to preschool children who accompany their siblings to school.

PE Days

When it is your child's PE day, they should come to school dressed in their PE kit. This should be jogging bottoms / tracksuit bottoms / leggings along with a white t-shirt/polo shirt and a sweatshirt. They should also have appropriate trainers for PE.

Chrome Books

Any child who borrowed a chromebook from school for the period of lockdown must return it to school as soon as possible after the 8th March. It must be returned with its charger and if appropriate, the safety case. This will be checked upon arrival into school to ensure it is in full working order before being placed back into a classroom. This should be taken straight to your child's class teacher

Symptoms and Positive Cases

A small number of children and young people may be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate. You should not send your child to school or college if they:

1. have symptoms or live in a household with someone who has symptoms
2. have tested positive themselves, even if they do not have symptoms
3. live in a household with someone who has tested positive, even if that person does not have symptoms
4. are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
5. are required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons

You must inform school if any of the above apply to your child as soon as possible on 01723362249 or by emailing parents@northstead.n-yorks.sch.uk

Breakfast and After School Club

If you have previously used our breakfast and/or after school club, please ensure you book your child in for sessions by calling on 01723362249 or emailing admin@northstead.n-yorks.sch.uk

If you have not previously used this service, you will need to complete an application form before your child can attend. This can be found on the Northstead School website, by clicking on the Parents tab and then in Clubs.

Nearly there...

Your child's class teacher will send out some curriculum information and other notices in regards to PE days etc next week via Class Dojo. Please look out for this important information.

Finally

We'd like to place on record many, many, many thanks to all parents/carers and staff of our school community for their dedication to the children of Northstead. This has not been an easy time for any person and with the love and support we have given each other, we have been able to provide a successful remote learning package and a successful time in school for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

As partners in your child(ren)'s education with us and by working alongside school in a supportive manner, we will together ensure all children can achieve their very best. 2020 and 2021 have seen disruption to education for your children like no other but we are confident that by creating positive learning attitudes in school and at home, we will be able to ensure children continue to flourish and be 'The best that we can be' at our wonderful school.

Mr S.Hopper and Mrs S.Wilson
Deputy Headteachers