



Norris Bank Primary School

Green Lane Heaton Norris Stockport SK4 2NF

Tel: 0161 432 3944 Fax: 0161 975 5114 www.norrisbank.stockport.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Elena Ponsen

MARCH FAQs

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

As of Monday 8th March ALL year groups will be returning to school full time.

2. Does my child have to attend?

School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

3. I am worried that my child or a family member is vulnerable. Should I send my child back to school?

Yes; all of the necessary procedures, risk assessments and expectations have been implemented, remain in place and been updated in line with the latest Government guidance (Feb'21) is that it is safe for children to return to school as of 8th March 2021.

4. How big will the 'bubbles' be?

Each class of 30 will be a class 'Bubble' and each year group will also be a year group 'Bubble' of 60 pupils.

5. How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place?

We will of course do our best to support distancing, but parents must understand that in returning to school it is inevitable that children will touch adults and one another and come into close contact. The nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that this is unavoidable and we cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand this.

6. How do I explain social distancing to my child?

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe.

There are some great stories and simple explanations to help:

Time to Come In, Bear: A Children's Story About Social Distancing

https://youtu.be/DA_SsZFYw0w

How to Explain Social Distancing to Kids

<https://youtu.be/2HTA3ql6uWY>



For very young children who may not understand the concept of viruses and germs, this video from Sesame Street's Grover is a great way to show them the “good” and “bad” of being far away and too close up to someone.

Grover and Social Distancing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOrt8WMwVEo#action=share>

7. What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?

We will:

- follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. We have a sink in each class ‘bubble’ which has soap and hand sanitiser and in other learning environments they may access
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly than normal
- ensure that all adults and children:
 1. frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly
 2. clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
 3. are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
 4. use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste (‘catch it, bin it, kill it’)
 5. ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
 6. consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
 - ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
 - where possible, all spaces should be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units
 - prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation

8. Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?

We will keep children where possible within either their specific class or year group ‘bubble’ for the day. They won’t mix with another year group. Shared communal areas such as the ICT suite will be cleaned down before every class access it.

9. How will lunchtime work to ensure children are safe?

The school will continue to run staggered lunchtimes to maintain social distancing. Hot lunches will be available to all children in Year R-2 as they fall under ‘Universal free school meals’. Any child in KS2 who is entitled to free school meals will also get a hot lunch. Every other child returning needs to bring in a packed lunch each day or pay for a hot school lunch. Lunch boxes are still permitted from March onwards.

10. How will you make school safe for my child?

In addition to social distancing and hygiene measures mentioned above, we will

- give children a designated classroom and group (which we are going to refer to as their bubble) for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing
- regular cleaning of the setting and resources will take place
- use PPE such as gloves, aprons, masks, hand sanitiser and anti-bac wipes as identified in our Risk assessments

- confine resources to class/year group 'Bubbles' to minimise sharing and, when sharing is essential, clean resources before transference
- organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently
- carry out a corridor protocol – one way system and keep clear corridor spaces as far as is practical to allow maximum width space for walking
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them
- Staff and visitors will wear face coverings in all communal areas and corridors
- Staff will continue to use lateral flow testing kits twice weekly and notify both school and the NHS of the result

11. Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

With the relaxation in the guidance in September each class/year group 'Bubble' will continue to have normal resources that all children in the 'Bubble' can access and use e.g. dictionaries, books, and games. Children can also bring in their own resources as they did previously. Particularly any frequently used items such as pens and pencils as these now should not be shared with another pupil. Any resources that are shared (e.g. school laptop) will be thoroughly disinfected after each use.

12. Will everyone arrive at school at the same time, causing an increase in risk?

The school will organise a staggered drop off and collection time for pupils depending on their year group. The approach to school will be marked out with a 2-metre queue and drop off zone. This will be similar to the one way queueing systems seen from visits to the supermarket.

Only one parent, carer or child minder should accompany the child to school to minimise risk. Parents will not be invited to enter school but will drop off as described above.

13. Will the school have assembly?

There will be no mass gatherings or daily assemblies as a school. Instead these will be undertaken within either their class or year group 'Bubble'.

14. My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school as they haven't been in school since lockdown. How can I prepare him/her?

You will need to prepare your child again by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will hardly be any different for them than what they remember since September till Christmas. We will help you to prepare for this by re-sending drop off/collection pictures to you on a parent mail and a detailed update on Friday 25th Feb to explain what you and your child can expect. This information will also be accessible on the schools website.

Sharing social stories can be really helpful for young children and help to express the situation in a clear, factual way, reducing emotional responses.

It will be important to encourage your child to talk about their experiences in 'lockdown' and that this period is now ending again.

15. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?

Yes, however, the initial focus will be on supporting the personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing as they return. We will of course ensure that we deliver our normal broad, balanced and creative curriculum within the current restrictions. Booster and interventions programmes will also be implemented across school as every child's learning experience will have been different.

16. How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to that mentioned above, a team of staff will be available to provide support. Our staff, SENDCO, mental health first aider, and behaviour and primary jigsaw support links will all work to ensure that children's needs are met.

There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, and rebuild friendships and have 'break out' or 'chill out' spaces for times when they may feel overwhelmed. We will continue to use our GROW values to support children's learning.

17. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

The Government guidelines state, "The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain social distancing. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if social distancing cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn."
- In primary schools, the DfE has recommended that from March '21 face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering. Therefore staff will wear face masks on site in these identified areas unless they are medically exempt. They will not wear masks when undertaking face to face teaching or outside. However, it is at the discretion of the individual as to whether they choose to wear a face covering at all times.
- However at the moment school's thinking is that this is an individual family and staff member decision. If parents or staff insist on wearing face masks, we will not prohibit them from doing so, apart from when it becomes a danger to the child. Parents will need to exercise their own judgement around this and MUST understand that we cannot guarantee that your child will keep a mask on or wear it properly and should be able to put it on and off themselves. If parents wish their child to wear a face mask, they must provide these themselves.

18. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

Pupils will be required to wear NBPS school uniform on their return to school. They will also need their PE kit in school to do both indoor and outdoor PE. The children will also need trainers in school every day.

19. Will the Breakfast Club and After School Club be open?

Yes we will be able to offer this service again from March to all year groups. The format that was used prior to Christmas will be reinstated and children will remain in year group bubbles as before.

Currently due to parents having work schedules altering at short notice during the most recent lockdown 'Branching Out' has currently temporarily reduced the booking window to weekly rather than monthly. As we move out of lockdown this will revert back to normal and further details will be circulated directly from them regarding March and any updates.

20. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

Currently we will minimise additional adults coming in and out of school. (Thank you to all those who have offered your help.) Other professionals such as therapists, music teachers and sports coaches will be allowed into school to ensure that the children are supported with their individual needs as well as delivery of the curriculum. Risk assessments will be applicable.

21. Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc.)?

Currently mixed age age activities, like football, netball etc.. will not be able to run.

22. Will I be able to send my child in with their own soap?

Yes, please send it in a clear re-sealable plastic bag. If your child also needs a barrier cream to protect their hands, you may also send this is. Again, please do so in a clear plastic bag that is labelled with their name.

23. Will my child be able to have a snack from school?

Currently we are asking parents to provide their child with a healthy snack for break time if they would like to. The free fruit and vegetable scheme which KS1 children normally access will be up and running. All snacks must be NUT FREE.

24. Will the school office be open?

Yes, we ask that parents ring/email the school as access to the site is restricted. Any visitors coming into the school office must wear a face covering.

Letters for administering medication and applying for term time leave are available to download via our school website.

25. Will children and staff be eligible for testing for the virus?

Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s has supported the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. Staff in primary schools will continue to test with LFDs twice a week at home, as per existing guidance on [testing for staff in primary schools and nurseries](#).

Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with myself to help with contact tracing.

Primary age pupils will not be tested with LFDs. Public Health England have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with lateral flow

devices. Primary age pupils may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab. However the DfE will review this approach in the light of any emerging evidence.

26. What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which socially distances them from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a social distancing cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

We plan to use our hygiene room as our isolation room.

27. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 10 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or pod within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid

investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

28. Will the school take my child's temperature every day?

No

29. Will there be any trips or residential's once school opens in March?

The Government continue to advice against domestic (UK) overnight and overseas educational visits at this stage. As of March, schools cannot resume non-overnight domestic educational visits.

30. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are socially distancing?

You can contact your child's class teacher by emailing them. If you are unable to do this, you can email/ring the office who will then pass the message on.

31. What should my child bring to school each day?

They should bring in a named water bottle, coat if it is cold/wet, a hat and sun cream if it's warm/hot.

Hand soap will be provided however you can send your own in so long as it is named and is a re-sealable bag.

Your child can bring a lunch box, PE kit, SMALL rucksack/bag, book bag or pencil case. All of which will be kept in their class 'Bubbles' to minimise cross contamination.

32. Where can I find more information about returning to school in March?

The Government information is provided here

<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>

We have endeavoured to answer all potential questions, however if you have any further questions please email me directly.

Thank you

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Ponsen

Headteacher