



Norris Bank Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Elena Ponsen

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We can **FINALLY** say welcome back and we hope that you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer. We would like to welcome new staff and our new children and their families who have started in reception and throughout the school. We pride ourselves on fostering strong relationships within school and with our families so we hope that you all settle in quickly to life here at Norris Bank.

WEBSITE

I hope that you have all had the opportunity to see our updated website. It looks amazing and we hope that it will be easier for you to navigate and information that you need is easily accessible. A MASSIVE thank you to our parents; Ms Walker, Mr Mason and Mr Hughes who provided their skills and time to do all of this for us. It has been invaluable and we are all very thankful and grateful as it has improved communication with the whole of our school community.

All forms that you might need such as medical permissions, walking to school and exceptional leave are all on there for you to access and download.

KEY DATES FOR THE YEAR

All of the key dates for this year have been uploaded to the school website and will be re-sent to you via parent mail again this week. We wanted to provide you with them as soon as possible to help you plan child care and work commitments as far in advance as possible to make things easier. We will continue to put reminders on our 'Friday issue' and notify you of any changes that may occur.

MEET THE TEACHER MEETINGS

To help your child settle into their new classes, and to help you become more familiar with the routines and expectations of each class teacher and year group, we normally hold 'Meet the teacher Meetings'. Due to current COVID restrictions we will be unable to have any face to face meetings. Instead the year group PowerPoints of all the information you will need will be on the school website under the tab **'Year Group Information'**.

We hope that you will find the information useful. If there are any queries regarding any of the information, routines, or curriculum expectations etc. then please email the teacher.

All year groups will be maintaining contact with yourselves via our Dojo system and increasing their usage of Dojo story. This will enable you to see what we are doing in school remotely and it will also be an informal way for all teachers to update you on general year group/class information.

If you have any specific queries or concerns regarding your own child then please email the teacher directly. All email addresses for all the staff are on the school website as well as on their year group newsletters. Alternatively you can ring the office and they can pass on a message to get in touch with you. Please be aware that teachers will be teaching throughout the day and COVID restrictions are in place as to when teachers will be accessing different parts of school. Therefore you will not get an instant response so please be patient. They will get back to you as soon as is feasible.



SAFEGUARDING

As part of our continual assessment of our safeguarding procedures we would like to ensure that we have an up to date register of all children who have permission to walk between home and school alone. You will therefore have received a letter regarding this which we would appreciate you returning as soon as possible.

We strive to ensure that school is always a safe environment. With everyone's vigilance this is something that we are extremely successful at achieving. Amendments have been implemented in terms of COVID and once the children are all settled and familiar with all COVID routines we will then, as normal, introduce our termly fire drills where we ensure everyone gets out safely as well as undertake termly 'lockdown' drills where we ensure everyone remains inside safely. Examples of 'lock down' scenarios might include a (fictional) dog loose on school premises, a gas escape nearby or similar events such as an aircraft disaster or an intruder on the premises. We will obviously reassure children that we are only practicing what to do in the event that something happens, but, these, are still considered very rare occurrences.

ATTENDANCE

At Norris Bank we follow the local authority's attendance policy and a summary and all links can be found at:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/attendance-at-school>

School attendance is mandatory again from the beginning of this autumn term. This means from now, 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.

If an exceptional leave request needs to be submitted then these forms must be completed in all instances and are available to download from the school website. Exceptional leave cannot be approved via email unless the correct request form is also attached and sent. I am sure that you can appreciate that exceptional leave will also only be approved when a child's attendance is not a concern.

BRANCHING OUT AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

With current restrictions, and the need for our childcare provision 'Branching Out' to be up and running as soon as is possible, we will not currently be offering any after school clubs this term. This obviously will be reviewed if restrictions/guidance alters. However the difficulty is that we have to ensure children are not mixing from different 'Bubbles' across different year groups. Whilst initially we had thought that we could allocate a day per year group we are unable to. This is because we are having to apply the same restrictions to 'Branching Out' and are therefore unable to accommodate both. We have therefore made the decision that 'Branching Out' needs take priority as so many of our parents need to access this resource as they are returning to work. In addition we also want to extend it to include our new Year R parents as soon as is feasible. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION INCLUDING SWIMMING

As part of the curriculum each class has two sessions of PE each week which includes swimming in KS2. Please make sure that your child has their labelled PE kit in school every day which includes suitable clothing for outdoor sessions too. Children can only be withdrawn from all PE and /or swimming sessions if they have a medical condition and/or evidence from a Doctor to support this as physical education is statutory for all children. Year 4 children are due to begin swimming this term and all the information regarding this and COVID will be sent directly to you by the Year 4 teachers.

PSHCE & RELATIONSHIP & SEX EDUCATION

At Norris Bank we pride ourselves on the work we do to encourage children to develop into healthy, responsible citizens of the future. As part of this we have a Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education curriculum which includes activities in class such as discussions through 'Circle Time'. We also follow the PSHCE association scheme of work and Stockport's 'spiral curriculum' for drugs education, relationships and sex education. These are then complemented by the SEAL (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme.

The 'spiral curriculum' covers the following topics; feelings, friendships, growing up, personal hygiene, families and keeping safe. The teaching materials have been adapted to meet the needs of our pupils as well as updates and recommendations by the DFE.

LUNCHTIMES

As you will be aware from earlier communication we are unable to provide hot dinners currently due to logistics and pupil numbers. Children, if they are in Years R-2 can be given a free grab bag as they fall under universal free school meals. In Years 3-6 they can pay for a grab bag or receive a free school meal if they are entitled.

For children who would prefer to bring in their own packed lunch they are able to do so. If you would like to send your child in with a thermos of warm food as part of their lunch then this is fine as well. Just please ensure they have the necessary cutlery with them.

Please can I remind you that we are a **NUT FREE** school so please ensure packed lunches and any snacks coming in from home must be nut free.

CURRICULUM

At Norris Bank we aim to inspire our children to see learning as a journey. We want them to have a love of learning and feel passionate about discovering new things and have real ownership of their outcomes. Learning enables them to have aspirational aims by developing and using all of their skills and talents. Everyone is an individual with dreams and ambitions and we want to give our children the best start in their educational journey so that they feel confident, independent, resilient and able to tackle whatever life throws at them.

To support and achieve this aim we have always tried to ensure that our curriculum model is not too narrowly focused on just the core subjects, but allows children to undertake a broad breadth of quality education that provides opportunities beyond it. We want to ensure that the learning is relevant to the children and their future needs. To support this we have developed our **creative curriculum**.

This year, as far as practicable, we will continue with this model to ensure that our curriculum is not just based upon ensuring the children achieve highly at the end of key stage assessment points. Rather, high outcomes for all children are based on enjoyable, challenging and inspirational curriculum experiences and stimulating learning throughout their time with us.

ASSESSMENTS

Currently the government has said that the normal assessment regime will be in play this upcoming year. This may well change. Currently our primary focus will be ensuring that the children feel happy, safe and secure having returned to school; with emphasis on their health and mental wellbeing.

TUITION

You may well have seen in the media information about tuition and ensuring children 'catch-up' on any missed education. We are still waiting for final information of what this will look like from the government. As soon as we have the information and any further details we will be able to share this with you.

MEDICAL

We support and welcome pupils with medical conditions. If your child has asthma please inform school and provide an inhaler and spacer to be used if needed. If your child requires any other medication, such as epi-pens, then please discuss this with the school office and complete the relevant forms which are all available on the school website. It is also very important that the medication is 'in date' as well so please can you check as some medications now being prescribed only have a 6 month shelf life.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all the children, parents and staff for contributing to a great start to the new school year!

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Ponsen

Headteacher

