



# Norris Bank Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Elena Ponsen

## SEPTEMBER FAQs

### 1. Which year groups are returning to school?

As of September 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 and the latest Government guidance is that it is safe for children to return to school as of the Autumn term 2020.

### 4. How big will the 'bubbles' be?

The DfE is recommending increasing 'Bubbles' beyond 15. 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](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. Picnic grab bags 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 picnic grab bag. Every other child returning needs to bring in a packed lunch each day or pay for a picnic grab bag. Lunch boxes will be permitted as of September.

## 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

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

With the relaxation in the guidance each class/year group 'Bubble' will have normal resources that all children in the 'Bubble' can access and use e.g. dictionaries, books, and stationary. Children can also bring in their own resources as they did previously. 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 by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. We will help you to prepare for this by sending drop off/collection pictures to you on a parent mail and a detailed update on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June to explain what you and your child can expect.

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.

### 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. My child is new to school what will happen?

Our Early year's staff will be in contact in July to ensure that you have all the necessary information prior to starting in September. They will also be ensuring that you have a dedicated 1:1 meeting booked in with your child's teacher and support staff to discuss everything that you need to know and to raise any questions you may have. In addition they will plan how your child will return to school in September and the day's and sessions that they will be in school before becoming a full time member of our school community,

### 17. 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.

### 18. 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."

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.

### 19. 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.

### 20. Will the Breakfast Club and After School Club be open?

Similarly with 'Branching Out' we have to try and ensure that there is minimum cross over between children in 'Bubbles' which means the current format can't be adopted as normally all the children mix across school. Mrs Stanley and her team have therefore circulated a letter to parents who have used 'Branching Out' to gauge what the need and uptake would be from September so that we can begin to plan what provision if any can be provided. Further details to follow.

### 21. 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.

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

From September there will still be restrictions around minimising children not mixing from different 'Bubbles' across different year groups. With this factor in mind the first step in moving towards beginning to have after school clubs up and running again will mean we will need to allocate a specific day for each year group from Years 2-6 in the first instance. For example Year 2 children will be able to access an after school activity on a Monday, Year 3 on a Tuesday etc. We are currently working with Progressive Sports on risk assessments and determining which 'club/activity' would be most suitable for all the children to want to engage with. Currently mixed age range activities, like Thursday football, will not be able to run.

## 23. 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. Again, please do so in a clear plastic bag that is labelled with their name.

## 24. 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. We have yet to receive confirmation that the free fruit and vegetable scheme which KS1 children normally access will be up and running. All snacks must be NUT FREE.

## 25. Will the school office be open?

Yes, this is a very busy time of year and we ask that parents ring/email the school as access to the site is restricted.

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

## 26. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

The Government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

## 27. Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Yes, access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers.

## 28. 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.

### 29. 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 14 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 14 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.

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

No

### 31. Will there be any trips or residential's once school opens in September?

The Government continue to advice against domestic (UK) overnight and overseas educational visits at this stage see [coronavirus: travel guidance for educational settings](#).

In the autumn term, schools can resume non-overnight domestic educational visits. These trips should include any trips for pupils with SEND connected with their preparation for adulthood (for example, workplace visits, travel training etc.). This should be done in line with protective measures, such as keeping children within their consistent group, and the coronavirus (COVID-19) secure measures in place at the destination. Schools should also make use of outdoor spaces in the local area to support delivery of the curriculum. As normal, schools should undertake full and thorough risk assessments in relation to all educational visits to ensure they can be done safely. As part of this risk assessment, schools will need to consider what control measures need to be used and ensure they are aware of wider advice on visiting indoor and outdoor venues. Schools should consult the [health and safety guidance on educational visits](#) when considering visits.

### 32. 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.

### 33. 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.

From September 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.

### 39. Where can I find more information about returning to school in September?

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/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

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