

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Proposed Wider Re-opening of Northern Parade Schools

Why are only Year R and Year 6 children being invited back to Northern Parade Schools initially?

The government have advised schools to prioritise certain year groups (Year R in infant schools and Year 6 in junior schools). We simply do not have enough classrooms when operating the socially distanced smaller 'bubble' group sizes required, if all Year R, 1 and 6 pupils were to attend at the moment.

Will my Reception or Year 6 child attend school with the same hours?

To ensure social distancing and maintain a safe environment for our pupils, there will be some changes to the start and finishing times of the school day, as well as to the days your child can attend. Further detailed information will follow.

How do I enter and exit the school?

All staff to enter through the Doyle Avenue main entrance either by foot or via car.

Gates and times (on Doyle Avenue and Kipling Road) details will be given out to specific children/families.

This time will be staggered for different groups so it is imperative you arrive on time.

We will create one-way systems (in and out) where possible.

We would ask that you follow all government guidance by walking to school where possible and staying safe on public transport if this must be used.

If I live on Kipling Road, can I enter that gate with my child and walk round if I am given a different gate?

No, all parents will be directed to enter the school via the correct gate to promote social distancing.

If you drive to school, please remember to park in a safe place and allow time for parking. Please be considerate of our neighbours when you park.

My Year 6 child used to walk to and from school on their own. Can this arrangement continue?

At this time, we would prefer that you ensure your child is accompanied to and from school. This is to ensure that social distancing is maintained on the journeys to and from school as we all have a responsibility to promote this measure.

Can my child bring their scooter or bike?

No, due to the need to maintain social distancing and because of space restrictions due to the one-way entrance and exit system, scooters and bikes are not permitted onto the school site during this time. We would request that all toddlers are kept in a pushchair if they must accompany you.

Can I bring my other children to school when dropping off my child in Reception and Year 6?

Due to space restrictions and limiting social interaction, we ask that only one parent drops off the children at school. If possible and it is safe to do so, we ask that siblings stay at home during this time. Parents should exit the site as soon as they have dropped their child off to a member of staff.

Can I drop off my Year 6 child then my Year R child (for example)?

You will need to drop off your children according to staggered start times, making sure you follow the entrance and exit routes and the one way systems in place.

What happens if my child is distressed and does not want to come into school?

Although we will do our best to encourage your child and ensure they are happy, we will follow social distancing guidelines. Therefore if your child is too distressed to leave you and enter the school site, they will need to be taken home.

Will my child be taught by their class teacher?

Due to social distancing measures requiring individuals to be 2 metres apart, classrooms can only hold a limited number of children. Therefore, it is unlikely that your child will be taught by their class teacher. The children will receive the same work and activities as their peers and senior leaders will monitor sessions regularly.

Will my child be working in the same classroom?

We will be using classrooms across the school to accommodate the children working in smaller groups. Whilst some children may be working in their classroom, the majority will be working in other classrooms throughout the school.

What will my child be doing at school?

To begin with, our priority is the safety well-being of the pupils returning to us. Alongside daily opportunities for exercise and craft, children will have the opportunity to work on their basic English and number skills. It will not be possible to teach the full curriculum at this time. Due to health and safety guidelines, most of the toys in our foundation classrooms will need to be removed.

How will the school support Year 6 with their transition to secondary school and Year 2 to transition to the junior school?

The school will liaise directly with secondary schools to share information about the attainment and attitudes of your child. Year 6 children will not be able to visit their secondary schools at this time. Virtual tours, 'meet the teachers' and meetings for parents are being arranged by schools for all pupils transitioning to new schools.

Will the children have PE lessons?

The school will be running PE and outdoor opportunities daily. These will be modified activities to ensure that social distancing is maintained, whilst allowing the children to keep active, develop their movement skills and have fun! Children do not need to bring their PE kits into school at this time.

Will my child be allowed to use the toilet when they need to?

Each group of children will be allocated a specific set of toilets that they can use on a rota system. All children will be escorted to the toilets by an adult as they will not be allowed to move around the school independently.

Will my child's work be marked when in school?

Your child's work will not be physically marked with a pen in the way we are used to at this time, due to strict health and safety guidance. All children will receive verbal feedback and guidance.

Will my child have a school dinner?

Our catering staff will make lunches as usual. Social distancing means that the children will eat their food in their classrooms at their desks. Halls will not be used for meals during this time and meals will be delivered to the classrooms. We would prefer that children do not bring packed lunches from home if possible.

Will my child have access to water during the day?

All children will be required to bring in a filled water bottle with a cap that covers the mouth piece. This bottle must be labelled clearly with their name on and placed on to the child's desk and remain there.

Will the children still have milk?

If the delivery of milk resumes, children may have milk if you wish them to. This will be placed on their desk before their session commences.

Can my child change their reading book?

At this time, we ask that children use Oxford Reading Buddy to practise their reading at home. This is to minimise the risk that comes with children taking resources to and from school.

Can I go to the school office?

Due to health and safety guidelines, you will need to phone or email the school office. You can only attend in person if you have a pre-arranged appointment.

What should my child bring to school?

Your child should attend school with a water bottle. They may also bring in fruit in a plastic container, hand sanitiser and hand moisturiser if they choose to. They will not be allowed to bring in a book bag or any other items from home.

If my child has special needs, will a transition meeting for next year take place?

Yes, our SENCO will liaise with your child's teacher and new teacher and an online video/call meeting will take place.

If my child has an EHCP, will their provision remain the same?

Where a child has an EHCP, reasonable adaptations may be made to the provision outlined in their plans, to ensure the safety of the children and staff. These adaptations will ensure that the key skills and targets can continue to be worked on whilst following health and guidelines.

Will hand washing take place?

Yes, children will be required to wash their hands on entry to their classroom, before and after breaks/lunch and PE sessions and before leaving as a minimum. If your child wishes to come in with hand sanitiser this must be clearly labelled with their name and it will remain on their desk whilst they are in school.

Can my child bring a hand moisturiser to school?

Yes. This MUST be hypo - allergenic and nut free. This must be clearly labelled with your child's name and they will store this on their desks and remain in school.

Can I send my child into school wearing PPE?

No, health guidance advises that for young children this is not helpful in schools and can increase risks. If this is something you wish to do, you should contact the school to discuss with the Year Group Assistant Headteacher or Executive Headteacher.

Will staff be wearing PPE?

Some members of staff may be wearing PPE. When a child requires first aid that needs adult intervention, intimate care is needed or if closely supervising anyone with symptoms until they leave the school site, the staff member will wear PPE.

Can I help my child at home?

Yes, we will continue to supply home learning packs and activities that can be completed at home.

If my child has been part of the Northern Parade facility for critical workers, can they attend school with peers on the specified days?

You will need to choose whether you require critical key worker child care/vulnerable child care support, or a return to school. This is because Government guidelines state that social distancing must be maintained between groups. So for example, if you have two children, one of which would be in one of the returning year groups, and one in one of the non-returning year groups, we will need to group them accordingly.

Is the breakfast and afterschool club available to children returning to school?

Unfortunately not, due to the risk of transmission of the virus across groups. Provision for the children of critical key workers/ vulnerable children to COVID-19 will continue as before.

Does my child still need to wear a uniform?

Yes. Book bags should stay at home, but you may wish to bring a coat. This will be kept on the back of your child's chair. The advice is that all uniforms are cleaned after each day they are in school. We also ask that jewellery and watches are not to be worn at this time.

Will there be a transition meeting for children in July?

Due to social distancing measures, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to allow children to visit their new classroom and teacher in July, however information will be shared with you in due course and we are working hard to consider the successful transition for all year groups.

Will I get fined if I choose to keep my child at home?

No, actions will not be taken and parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time. The government has stated that schools will not be held to account for attendance levels. However, if you do send your Year R or Year 6 child to school and then they do not attend, we will contact you to check that they are well and safe.

What medical procedures has the school got in place?

We ask that parents check their child's temperature before school as children can not attend if their temperature is raised. If your child shows any one of the COVID 19 symptoms (raised temperature, continuous cough or loss of the sense of smell or taste whilst at school, you will need to collect your child immediately to begin self-isolation. Your child will be kept in a safe designated isolation zone until your arrival.

What if my child requires first aid during their time at school?

With guidance from the First Aider, some cuts and scrapes can be cleaned with a wet wipe/tissue by the child (depending on age), however for more serious injuries, where the First Aider would need to administer care, staff will be required to wear full PPE.

If my child requires medication such as an epi-pen or an asthma pump, how will I return it and where will it be stored?

If this applies to your child, please email the school office once your child's place is confirmed so we can guide you.

Can I change my mind and send my child to school?

We ask that you keep the school informed if your decision about sending your child in changes at any time, as careful plans and arrangements have to be made.

Will I still expect contact via email/apps (Marvellous Me)/phone call home from a teacher, even though my child has not returned in June?

Yes, staff will still continue to telephone home where children are not attending school. Parents are still reminded to use the usual channels to contact teachers and staff if they require any additional support or guidance.

Will my child be in a classroom with their friends?

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee your child will be in a class with their friends, due to school capacity and the need to have much smaller groupings than class sizes.

Will the school start time and end time change?

Yes, due to ensuring 2 metre social distancing in and around the school, we will be staggering start and finish times. A timetable for each individual group will be given. We ask that you arrive to drop off and collect your child promptly, not too early and not too late. If you need to talk to the teacher, we ask that you email or phone us before, during and after school.

Will the children be able to socialise in classes?

Social distancing rules will be applied within groups throughout the school day, including at break times.

Will my child see their friends at break?

Groups will NOT be able to mix at break or at any point during the day. We have seen children of critical workers currently attending school make new friends with children that they didn't know previously.

Are parents allowed to request the days that their children return to school?

No, due to the complexity of the plans that we need to put in place pupils will be allocated a place at school and given their days and times accordingly. The school is NOT asking children in Year R and Year 6 to attend on Fridays as staff need time for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) for children in school and at home and for deeper cleaning to take place.