



Northway Primary and Nursery School

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Deputy: Mrs K Lightfoot BEd (Hons)

Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: Return to School – March 8th 2021

I wrote to you at half term to **thank you** for your patience, kindness, understanding, hard work, resilience and partnership, specifically over the past lockdown. I want to reaffirm that message and repeat it **boldly** once again! At Northway, we understand that so many of you have been juggling working from home, caring for younger children or elderly family members all alongside Home Remote Learning. Some days will have been better than others but just look at what has been achieved! **Please celebrate this success**. This has been one of the most challenging terms ever but your unwavering support and partnership alongside our enthusiastic Northway staff, has made it such a success. **Thank you!**

Friday marks 'Hall of Fame Day' where we want the children to reflect on their achievements since January. We want them to be creative, using skills of: dance, drama, oracy, art...and much more to reflect in many ways, using the song 'Hall of Fame' as their stimulus. I cannot wait to see who their lockdown heroes have been and see the achievements in their own 'Hall of Fame'. SeeSaw should be full of creative tasks to enjoy and engage with.

March 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

We cannot wait for Monday! On Monday we are so excited to be able to welcome the whole family back into Northway. It has been lovely welcoming 140 critical worker pupils since January but we have very much missed the smiles and energy of the rest.

Since being notified about the 8th, we have worked hard at Northway to convert our site from the 'Jan/Feb Bubbles' to 'Spring Term Bubbles'. I am so pleased to say the guidelines have not changed significantly, so everyone should be able to return without much difficulty. **Can you remember all the routines from December?**

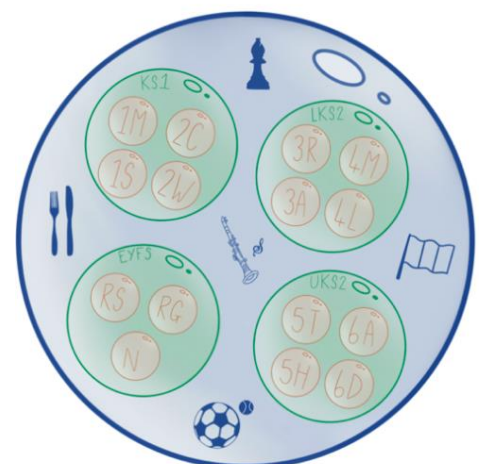
From Monday, all pupils and staff are expected back in School full time and attendance is statutory once more.

We have worked hard to ensure that although Covid-19 compliant, our child friendly, communication friendly and school of sanctuary environment has been maintained as much as is possible. I'm sure children will get back into the routine very quickly and probably feel like they have not been away!

Northway will continue to function as a bubble with both inter-bubbles and micro-bubbles. Class Bubbles (micro-Bubbles) remain at normal size and having inter-bubbles allows pupils to engage with their peers in other Bubbles. The most important term is consistency – children only mixing within a **constant group**. The illustration we shared last term is repeated here which hopefully helps to visualise our Northway Bubble.

Children will remain in their micro-Bubbles for the majority of their activities. Here social distancing is less important but encouraged. When engaging within their inter-Bubble, social distancing will be encouraged and practiced.

Northway Bubbles



- Whole school bubble
- Inter-bubble
- Micro-bubble



**Northway: Together we can achieve anything
All Learners, All valued, All achieving...All the time**



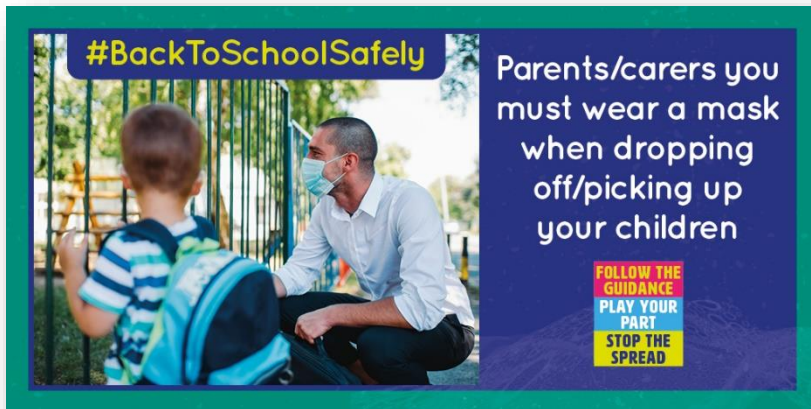


The Government has recognised that younger children find social distancing more of a challenge which led to modified guidance.

Classroom Bubbles still require children to sit in rows, facing the same direction. Children and staff are unable to sit or communicate with each other face to face to mitigate against spreading the virus.

Children **are able** to bring a hat, coat, books, stationary and bags into School once again, as well as a lunch box if they wish to have packed lunches. Hot dinners will continue to be served by Chef Jobin and eaten within the classroom for Year 1-4 and Reception, Year 5 and Year 6 in the Hall. **Please do limit the number of items children bring into school.** As we approach Spring / Summer, coats may not be needed or may be more lightweight. Certain Bubbles will store coats on the backs of chairs to assist with our cloakroom 'crowding' issues. This may be something to consider once the temperatures begin to rise.

Unfortunately guidance still does **not allow parents onto the school site without an appointment.** Visitors will also be kept to a minimum and managed according to the new guidance when they arrive.



Children have all been allocated their **Inter-Bubble Gate to enter and exit from** and staff will be on hand to guide children. Please see photograph to remind you of our processes.

For the safety of our community, **all parents** (unless medically exempt) **MUST wear a face covering.** This is a directive from Public Health Liverpool and an act of kindness for your child's friends, their parents and all our staff.

I know the gate system takes a little more time but by the end of week 2 in September we had all got ourselves into an efficient routine. **We ask that respect is demonstrated for each other when queuing for your children.** There is no need to arrive early as this will just encourage an unnecessary social gathering. We also request that once your child has been collected, **any conversations take place with other parents away from the school site.** The safeguarding of the children arriving / leaving is our main priority and this can be achieved effectively if we all play our part.

To assist with the exit strategy, we have made a couple of tweaks.

Reception will begin their day at 8.40am and conclude their on-site learning at **3pm**. This will alleviate the pressure at Northway 2 Gate. **Year 1** and **Year 2** will leave at 3.10pm (their day has been modified to allow this). **Year 3, Year 4, Year 5** and **Year 6** leave at 3.20pm from their separate gates.

	Arrive by...	Enter by...
Year 5 and Year 6	Northway 1 Main Office Entrance Gate	Side door by Junior Stairs
Nursery	Northway 1 Main Office Entrance Gate	Nursery Gate
Year 1 and Year 2	Northway 2 Gate (opposite shops)	Infant Classroom doors on Playground
Reception	Northway 2 Gate (opposite shops) 8.40am	Walk through Allotment into EFYS zone
Year 3 and Year 4	Waldgrave Gate	Walk through playground into Y3/4 door
Invited pupils	Drop Off Point	Front Room

**Northway: A School that Safeguards children
Together we can achieve anything - All learners, all valued, all achieving, all the time**



	Leave by...	Time
Nursery	Northway 1 Main Office Entrance Gate	Lunchtime
Reception	Northway 2 Gate (opposite shops) 8.40am	3pm
Year 1 and Year 2	Northway 2 Gate (opposite shops)	3.10pm
Year 3 and Year 4	Waldgrave Gate	3.20pm
Year 5	Northway 1 Main Office Entrance Gate	3.20pm
Year 6	Drop Off Point gate	3.20pm
Invited pupils	Front Room	3.20pm






The staggered exit will allow extra ease if collecting children from different gates and attempt to mitigate against social gatherings. Each Inter-Bubble will have their own walkie-talkie linked to a dedicated Inter-Bubble channel. Gate staff will radio to teachers who will then send children from the playground to the correct gate. From past experience this process should speed up as the week progresses. Staff will be on the gate to ensure each child is safely handed over to the correct parent.

Any Year 6 pupil who is allowed to walk home will be escorted to the Drop Off Gate by their class teacher at 3.20pm. Only children with a letter will be able to depart independently of their parent / carer, so if your child hasn't but is hoping to do this, please send a note to give permission.

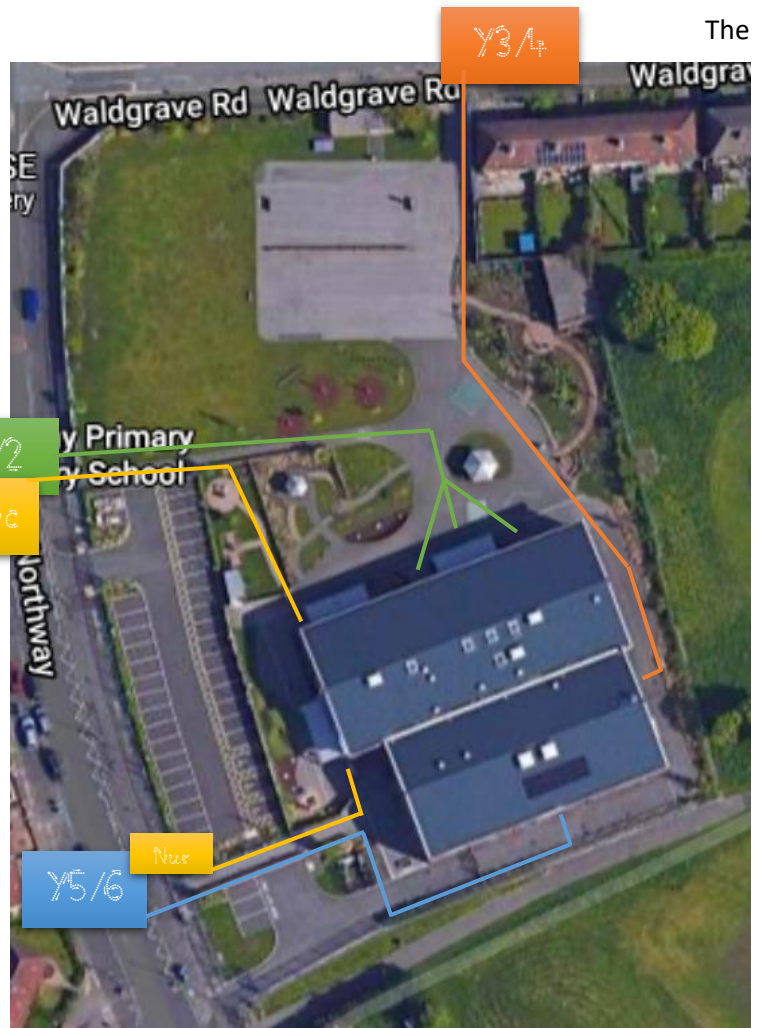
The designated gate for each year group will open at **8.40/45am and will close promptly at 9am**. Punctuality is even more important and we appreciate your support in this. In the afternoon, gates will open at **3pm / 3.10pm and 3.20pm with only the associated year group being able to leave at that time**.

Please park respectfully (not on ZigZags) to allow all families and their children to arrive / depart safely.

The Government guidance requires all children to wash their hands:

-  as they arrive,
-  if they go on a break,
-  when changing rooms,
-  before and after eating
-  before leaving the school.

Children will also be encouraged to follow 'catch it, bin it, kill it' when sneezing. Please have a chat with your child/ren to remind them of the importance of these requirements. They were fantastic before Christmas and I am sure they will continue to be so!





Toilets at Northway are all cubicles which helps greatly to maintain a safe distance and protective Bubble. Toilet breaks are timetabled and markings are in place in case of a queue. Staff are aware of children with additional toilet needs.

If a pupil becomes unwell or has a minor accident during the day, they will be given first aid. I'm pleased to share 12 staff have been re-certified with their First Aid training and another 12 are about to begin their training. This allows staff within their Bubble to administer First Aid rather than mixing Bubbles.

Children showing symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend Northway and any pupils showing symptoms during the day will be asked to return home with their parents / carer **and to be tested at one of the many testing stations**. Any pupil reporting absence due to Covid symptoms will be requested to ring for a test. **We have heard that all families will be offered a self-test pack to use at home. We do not know anything more about this at this stage.** Primary Schools are not taking part in on-site tests, this is Secondary Schools.

Excellent behaviour, as always, is essential whilst in the Northway Bubble. Our Values for Victory remain our 'road-map for success' and underpin our approach to behaviour.

Field Trips and Residential Trips are still not able to take place in the current guidance.

We are pleased to inform you that wrap around care is also now possible and **Breakfast** and **After School Club** will begin once again on Monday. Mrs Clay and Miss Sultan have already been contacting parents regarding this.

We are going to be beginning Breakfast and After School Learning Clubs as part of our Covid Catch-up response. We are very excited about this new initiative and believe it will really benefit our children. Together with in-class interventions, we aim to boost all learners so they are able to achieve and be proud of their success this academic year. More to follow on this next week.

On Monday we begin the important task of welcoming everyone back, establishing routines, taking into consideration the SEMH needs of our learners and all this alongside their Curriculum needs. **We want our children to return confidently and to thrive as quickly as possible.**

Nursery: Currently we are still only able to teach one Nursery Class. We are hoping this will change soon, so watch this space! School will notify parents as soon as we know anything.

Staff News: Year Three will be aware that Mrs Reilly is soon to return to Northway after her Maternity Leave. Year 3 Archer will be taught by Miss Downs Remotely with a 'live' Teacher in the classroom until Mrs Reilly returns fully. It will be lovely welcoming Mrs Reilly back fully in two weeks and during her regular keeping in touch days until then. Some members of staff are still required to 'Shield' and we are awaiting confirmation on their status for Monday. We have contingency plans in place.

THANK YOU once again for your support throughout these strange times. I know there is a lot of information within this letter but I hope it was useful. This current guidance lasts until Easter. Despite all the guidance and regulations...**Northway – we've still got this!**

Keep smiling and most importantly, be ready to shine even more this Spring!

Yours sincerely,

MJ Hargreaves
Headteacher

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