



North Bridge House Nursery & Pre-Prep

20th March 2020

Dear Nursery and Pre-Prep Parents,

Further to my letter of 18th March 2020, I write to provide you with an outline of the next phase of our on-going teaching and learning provision for the pupils at NBH Nursery and Pre-Prep Schools whilst the school building is closed.

As I'm sure you'll agree, we are currently all facing an exceptionally challenging and ever changing situation however, myself and my team at the schools remain fully committed to supporting you and your children throughout this period.

Our protocol ensures the continuity of teaching outside the classroom and is based on a phased approach to implementing 'remote' learning and 'online' learning.

1. Remote learning is the period when we provide educational learning tasks, activities and assignments to be undertaken in the more usual way, as they would be at school. The purpose of this period of remote learning is to allow our pupils to get used to this new routine of working from home. This phase of learning officially commenced on Thursday 19th March 2020. Activity packs have been sent to you via schoolcomms and are also available to download on the NBH App.
2. Online learning is the period when we will use online platforms to provide teaching and learning using a range of virtual resources. Online learning will commence for Nursery and Pre-Prep pupils on Monday 23rd March. Details on how to access this will be sent to you ahead of Monday.

We will be using a small number of platforms and systems to support our virtual learning programme. Our main platform will be **Seesaw**. Alongside this, our teachers will be drawing upon other educational platforms that will help us deliver learning in a stimulating and engaging way for our children.

These may include:

- 5-a-day Fitness (parent link and log in available on the app)
- PurpleMash (Pre-Prep)
- Linguascope (parent link and log in available on the app)
- Mangahigh (Pre-Prep)
- Twinkl (parent link and log in available on the app)

Key contacts

Please be reassured that our usual routes for communication will continue during the period of closure. For general day-to-day queries about your child's education, please contact your child's class teacher via email.

For other queries you may have, I include below a reminder of our key contacts in the school.

Executive Head of Nursery and Pre-Prep: Christine.mclelland@northbridgehouse.com

Head's PA / School Secretary : caroline.tunstall@northbridgehouse.com

Deputy Head and Safeguarding Lead at Pre-Prep: Michelle.mitchell@northbridgehouse.com

NBH Nursery School, 33 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 5JY Email: nursery@northbridgehouse.com

NBH Pre-Prep School, 8 Netherhall Gardens, London NW3 5RR Email: preprep@northbridgehouse.com

Telephone: **020 7267 6266** (for both schools) Web: www.northbridgehouse.com

Deputy Head and Safeguarding Lead at Nursery School: Nishi.Kapoor@northbridgehouse.com

We will be available during normal business hours 09:00 – 17:00

Our priorities

All our efforts are concentrated on addressing two priorities: on the one hand, the wellbeing of our children, and on the other hand, the continuity of their education. Although our school building is closed, our learning continues and we would welcome your support in reinforcing this vital message to your children.

Wellbeing

We want to ensure that first and foremost, we have arrangements in place to ensure that we support the wellbeing of our children. For this reason, we encourage your children to share their home-learning experiences with us through the Seesaw platform. This could be achieved through a written message, a video or a picture. All pupil uploads will remain hidden from view from other members of the group and only visible between you / your child and the teachers.

Aside from this, staff will make individual or group arrangements for regular check-ins with pupils and/or parents for specific purposes. As always, should you have any concerns about wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Our Designated Safeguarding Leaders are: Michelle Mitchell - Pre-Prep: michelle.mitchell@northbridgehouse.com
Nishi Kapoor - Nursery : Nishi.Kapoor@northbridgehouse.com

They can be contacted during normal business hours via the email addresses provided above.

Education

In the period of online learning, your child will have a more formal timetable of learning. Teachers have been working on devising these timetables and curriculum plans. Further guidance on this will be sent to you ahead of Monday.

We have been learning from our colleagues in Cognita schools in Asia who have been working in this way for over two months. Their insight tells us that the online learning experience will develop over time. We know that in the early days, it is important not to overwhelm children as this is a very different way of working. Specifically, we know that expecting a home-learning timetable to operate in an identical way to a school timetable is neither feasible nor in the best interests of the children, or our educators, as we want to avoid overly long periods of screen time. Teachers will consider this in their planning and, for example, post videos with follow-up learning tasks rather than requiring elongated periods online. One of the benefits of being part of a global family of schools is that we can share and learn from so many people. We have channels in place for our teachers to share practice with thousands of other Cognita teachers for as long as the school closure continues (and beyond).

This is new territory for all of us and we want to work in partnership with you so that learning for our children is productive and enjoyable. It is important to highlight that, with regular supervision and feedback, the majority of our older pupils will be able to follow the personalised virtual learning in a mainly autonomous way. For our younger pupils, we do ask for your initial support as this help lay the groundwork for a successful experience over the period of closure.

What to expect...

As noted, we are in the early days of this way of working but are confident we can create an exceptional learning experience. We have included below the details that you can expect for your child:

- Timetable - this will guide you as to how you might like to structure your child's day to retain a sense of routine and balance to their day.
- Daily tasks set by the teaching team for your child's year group. These will be set Monday to Friday inclusive from 08:00 each day. Your child will receive these tasks via Seesaw each morning to complete over the course of the day. They will complete their tasks **offline** and will



submit them to their teacher via the Seesaw platform in the form of a photo, video or voice message.

- Feedback on those tasks by the teaching team.
- *Guidance on how to access Seesaw will be sent to you ahead of Monday.

Further information

For further tips for parents about how to manage this new context, please see:

<https://www.cognita.com/cognita-be-well/be-well-resources-for-families/>

Finally, please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or concerns. By working together to support our children, we can ensure their academic progress continues during these unprecedented times.

We will continue to maintain contact with you throughout this closure and hope that you and those closest to you remain healthy.

With best wishes to you all,



Mrs McLelland
Executive Headteacher
NBH Nursery and Pre-Prep Schools