



North Bridge House
Nursery & Pre-Prep Schools

BACK TO SCHOOL

Our plans for the September return



MESSAGE FROM MRS MCLELLAND



Dear Nursery and Pre-Prep Parents

This has been quite the term for us all, staff, pupils and parents.

We are really pleased with how well the return to school has gone since the 3rd June. The children have settled into their new surroundings so incredibly well and they have demonstrated just how resilient they are in how quickly they have adapted to new routines and systems. It has also been a real delight to see the progress that the children have made during the period of lockdown. They really are a credit to you.

In the recent survey 96% of you agreed that both you as a family and your child benefited from going back to school, 93% agreed that that the return to school process was well managed by the school, and 94% thought that every possible risk mitigation that the school could have taken was taken. Some of your lovely comments are included at the back of this document. Thank you also for the ideas and requests some of you made as we turn our attention to September.

As you will know, the government have now released their guidance for schools on which to base our planning for a **full re-opening** in September. I am delighted that we shall indeed be able to reopen to **all pupils in all year**

groups on the 3rd September which is wonderful news for us all and we are already looking forward to a great start to the new academic year.

More details on our planning can be found within this document and we will update you over the holidays should there be any further changes.

In the meantime, please also take a moment to read the Orientation Pack which was sent to you via Schoolcomms this week.

Thank you once again for your support of the school this Summer Term, and for your encouragement and feedback. I wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to an exciting new academic year.

As ever, please let me know if you have any questions.

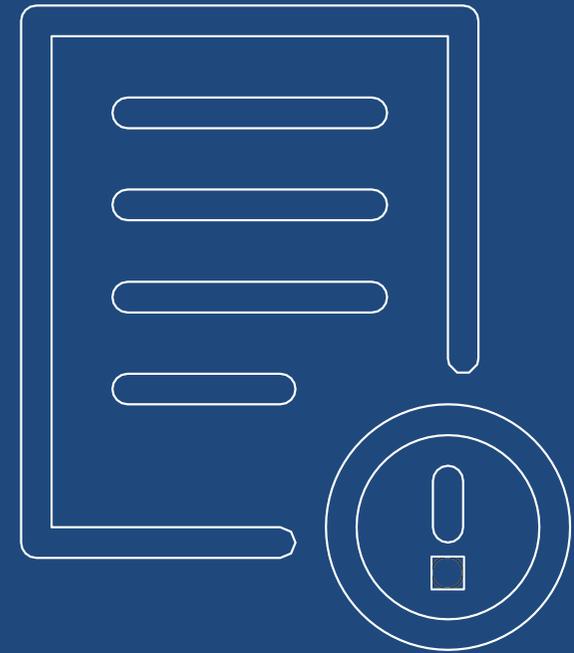
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "McLelland".

Mrs McLelland
Executive Headteacher
NBH Nursery & Pre-Prep Schools



HIGHLIGHTS FOR NEXT YEAR

1. Back to normal - this means open and running a normal day for all year groups, within the government guidelines.
2. Forest School for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
3. Wellbeing - a focus on both students and staff to help them emotionally process the lockdown experience.
4. Safety – risk mitigation to include enhanced cleaning and hygiene measures with new procedures for confirmed cases and outbreaks
5. Growth mindset - taking the lockdown experience and continuing to innovate and grow from what we have learnt.

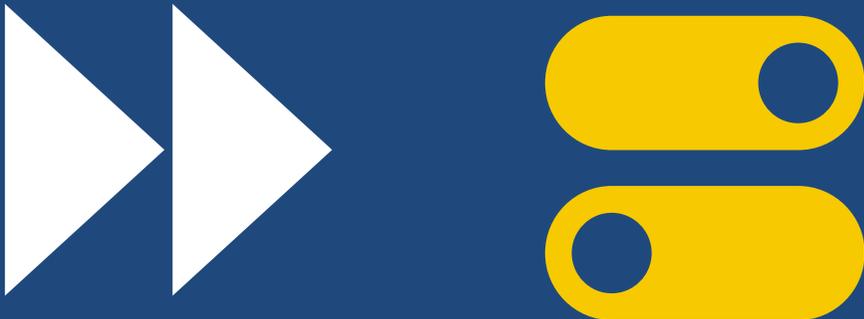


HOW WILL IT WORK?

We have done a large amount of scenario planning and we're confident we can get back to normal.

The latest government guidelines have significantly reduced the need for social distancing and as a result schools will be encouraged to return to a full timetable for all year groups.

This is great news and to the right is a summary of what we know now. This is, of course, conditional on the continued downward trend of the infection rate.



GUIDANCE SUMMARY

Based on the government guidance released on 2nd July we are basing our planning on:

- The bubbles will be increased to incorporate 'whole year' bubbles. This will enable us to deliver lessons as per normal with full classes. Specialist teachers will be able to move between classes provided they maintain social distancing.
- Some of the features from this term may need to remain such as staggered timings and one-way systems, as will a continued focus on hygiene and cleaning.
- School services such as catering and transport can return to relative normality with some adaptations to mitigate viral spread
- Track and trace in schools will be a focus

FAQS



WILL THERE STILL BE A FEE FREEZE FOR NEXT YEAR?

Yes. Given the exceptional circumstances, the economic situation and the value we place on our relationship with our parent cohort the usual annual percentage increase for this coming year will not be applied.

ARE SPORTS, CLUBS & TRIPS RETURNING?

Yes, where possible. We are keen to return to 'business as usual' as much as possible, and this component of education is important. Clubs bookings are available on the school website here: <https://www.northbridgehouse.com/nursery-pre-prep-hampstead/school-life/extra-curricular-activities/>

Certain non-contact sports are approved, and clubs can generally re-start, although there are some restrictions in the latest guidance that we will work through over the summer. We are also planning to have the wrap around care offer of Breakfast Club from 07:45 (located at the Nursery School) and after school clubs and Tea Club until 17:45.

There will be trips including Forest School for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

WILL SCHOOL TRANSPORT RESUME?

Yes. We are following government advice closely on this and working with our transport suppliers. Risk mitigations we are investigating are the suitability of face coverings (like on public transport), cleaning regimes, and route reviews.

WILL CATERING RETURN TO NORMAL?

Yes. We may need to operate staggered mealtimes, and apply some other operational safeguards, but we intend to return to catering as it was before as far as we can, within the guidelines.

WHAT ABOUT LOCAL LOCKDOWNS?

We are planning in detail what happens if the school needs to temporarily close in the case of an outbreak or localised lockdown. If the call comes we can respond quickly, following a pre-agreed plan.

WHAT ABOUT READING AT SCHOOL?

Reading at school will continue. We will aim for this to take place twice a week for every child and reading books from our Big Cat scheme will be sent home for further practice.

WHAT ABOUT INFECTION CONTROL?

We will continue our robust cleaning regime next year and work closely with our cleaning staff to ensure every possible risk mitigation is taken.

We are also reviewing our infection control procedures over the Summer to allow us to track confirmed or suspected cases and communicate with parents in the smoothest way possible.

WHAT WILL THE CHILDREN WEAR TO SCHOOL?

The children will be able to wear their NBH uniform to school as normal.

WILL THERE BE SPECIALIST LESSONS?

Yes, the children will receive their PE, French, Music and Italian lessons.

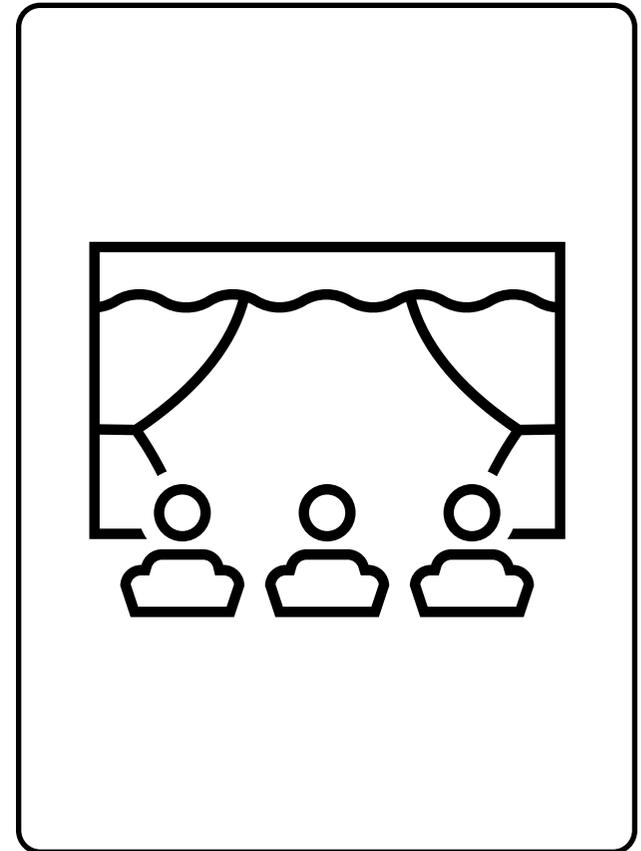
WHAT ABOUT PERI-MUSIC LESSONS AND LAMDA

These will resume for those children in Year 1 and Year 2 as normal and will take place in a larger teaching space.

ASSEMBLIES AND GROUP GATHERINGS

We are planning ahead very carefully with regards to assemblies for the children. This is a key function in maintaining the wider sense of community and celebration across the school. Whilst at the moment, we aren't able to bring **all** the children together as we used to do, we will make sure that the children are able to participate in these community events through other means, for example live streaming them into classrooms.

School Concerts and Productions are also a much loved and anticipated event at the school. This is a real opportunity for the children to showcase their musical and acting talents and we know that you as parents love to watch them. Where possible we will run these events in the larger bubble groups and if we are not able to invite you into school to be audience members then we will look to live streaming these concerts for you to enjoy.



ROUTINES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

STAGGERED START AND END TIMES

We are fortunate to have multiple access points to both schools which will mean that we are able to welcome children into the buildings in a safely coordinated way. However, to avoid bottle-neck and crowding issues, we may have to stagger the start and end times for certain classes / year groups. We will do our best to minimise disruption to you as parents and will communicate any changes to start / end times in advance of the start of term.

GREETING OUR FRIENDS AND TEACHERS

As we have been doing this term, we will continue to promote the '*self-hug*' as a way of greeting our friends and Teachers. Please continue to practice this with your children over the summer break school so that they are familiar with this way of greeting each other.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

We will continue to urge children to regularly wash hands just as we did pre-lockdown and since the return to school in June. We have enough bathrooms to support this.

Extra supplies of soap and paper towels will be in place along with access to handgel.

You can help by reminding your children of the need to regularly wash their hands for 20 seconds by singing happy birthday twice.



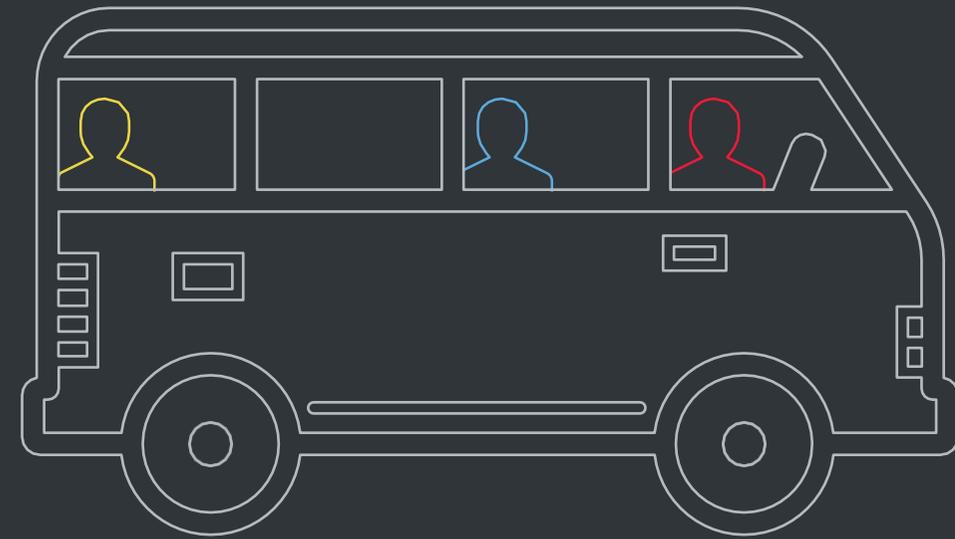
DRINKS BOTTLES

Access to cold filtered water is available to all children in the schools. We advise that you send in a water bottle each day so that these can be used in school and refilled as required. These will need to come home for regular washing during the week.

SCHOOL SERVICES

Travel to school:

- Children may bring bikes and scooters on to site. If you use public transport please follow guidelines around face coverings and carry hand sanitiser with you or wear gloves.
- The NBH Coach and Shuttle Bus service will be available for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We will be liaising with Naughtons and the chaperones with regards to how to seat the children in their year group bubbles. To book spaces, please contact transport@northbridgehouse.com



Catering:

- The school will provide all snacks and lunches through our in-house catering team as normal. Lunch will be consumed in classrooms if appropriate social distancing can't be achieved in the lunchroom / gym.

Extra Curricular:

- Extra-Curricular clubs will be available. Please see the school website for more details:
<https://www.northbridgehouse.com/nursery-pre-prep-hampstead/school-life/extra-curricular-activities/>
- Breakfast club is available from 07:45 (based in the Nursery School) and Tea Club is available until 17:45 (both schools)

RETURN TO SCHOOL SURVEY RESULTS

THANK YOU FOR THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK

96% of parents agreed that their child benefitted returning to school

• *I think you are all doing a superb job. This is such a difficult time. I know this was the best thing for our daughter and that every detail has been looked after. Everything in your control - that is! Thanks so much.*

96% of parents agreed that their family benefitted from the return to school

• *I am very thankful to NBH for it's thoughtful planning around the return to school. The booklets to go through with children ahead of the return helped manage their expectations. Thoroughly impressed - thank you.*

93% of parents agreed that the return to school process was well managed by the school

• *The process has been incredibly smooth. I am very impressed and appreciate all the efforts you have all gone to, to get the children back to school safely.*

94% of parents agreed every possible risk mitigation that could have been taken was taken by the school



HERE TO HELP

A reminder of key contacts:

Telephone: 0207 2676266

opt 1 for Nursery School
opt 2 for Pre-Prep School

- Mrs McLelland - Executive Head:
Christine.McLelland@northbridgehouse.com
- Head's PA / School Secretary:
Caroline.Tunstall@northbridgehouse.com
- Miss Kapoor - Head of School and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Nursery:
Nishi.Kapoor@northbridgehouse.com
- Miss Blaber (formerly Mitchell) - Head of School and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Pre-Prep:
Michelle.Blaber@northbridgehouse.com

