



Northfield St. Nicholas Primary Academy

St Margaret's Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4HN

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Headteacher: Mr. I. W. Owens



Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. J. Catchpole

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. T. Freeman

Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 13th November 2020

As you are all aware there is a ever present danger that our school might have to close classes or whole year groups if and when there is a pupil or staff member who tests positive with COVID19.

How likely this is, in part, rests on the measures we can put in place to reduce the risks of COVID19 outbreaks and how closely they are followed by pupils, staff, parents and other visitors to our site.

At NSN we have worked very hard to ensure that we are doing our utmost and within the practicable options we have at our disposal to keep everyone safe. Although never wholly perfect, the strategies we have put in place so far have done much to minimise the risks of further closures and much is thanks to the support of the community who support and follow our strategies, even at times when this felt confusing or challenging to do so.

As the risks of more local COVID outbreaks become increasingly likely with more schools closing, either partially or in some cases wholly, we have reviewed how we might further reduce the risks at NSN.

One such way is to segregate playtimes further. From Monday, each class will have a dedicated place and time to have their playtime, so whole year groups will no longer be having their playtimes at the same time in the same space.

This should help ensure that if a child in one year group is confirmed COVID19 positive, then we would only need to close their class bubble, and not the whole year group, as happened previously. This unfortunately does mean much smaller playtime spaces for all pupils and reduced contact with friends across class year groups.

We have been practicing this this week (hence more barriers in the back playground) and feel we can manage despite the increased complications this brings to managing school lunchtimes.

In addition may we remind you to please help us keep our school open by :

- **Please wear a mask** when on site unless you are exempt from doing so.
- **Please follow the systems we have for queuing** for your class before and after school and do not crowd the class doors or exit areas.

LOOK SMART, THINK SMART, BE SMART.

The Northfield St Nicholas way !

Learning Leadership Enjoyment Responsibility Inspiration Inclusion Integrity





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- **Please keep your children under close supervision** so our pathways and site remains calm and orderly for all to navigate safely with the 2m guidance in mind.
- **Avoid collecting and dropping off at the busiest times - 8.40am and 3.15pm are very busy.** It is much, much quieter at 8.45am and 3.25pm - try to consider adjusting when you arrive to avoid crowds. **Doors are open 8.40am-8.55am/ 3.15pm-3.30pm.**
- **Please respect the systems we have in place** to keep us all safe, they may seem unwarranted or complicated but are necessary to try and keep our school open.
- **Please remain calm and polite** if you feel the need to question the systems and changes in place with our staff - they are only trying to follow the COVID guidance the school has been instructed to use in order to keep everyone safe and to keep our school open. Solutions to the problems we face are never as simple as they might initially seem.
- It is a challenging time for all - **please be as kind and patient as possible** - none of the strategies are perfect, nothing is proven to work definitively but this is the first pandemic any of us have had to manage. **Our staff are all working flat out to keep the school open, help children learn and keep everyone safe, please try to be supportive.**

Thank you to **all the fabulous parents/visitors** who continue to be patient and supportive during these challenging and worrying times - it helps so much at a time when everyone is anxious and concerned.

Yours sincerely

Mr I. W. Owens
Headteacher

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