

## Mrs S Pennington: Head Teacher Swarthmore Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 4JT Telephone: 0121 675 2489

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

## Dear Parent/Carers

Recently we sent out a survey to collect feedback on the start and end of the day. Thank you for your responses and any feedback you have passed on through Class Dojo. It has been highly valuable hearing your experiences and thoughts on how we can continue to adapt to new ways of working.

Overall, the community is very positive, and most of us are working together to support the school in making the start and end of the day work well. There have been some common questions which have been highlighted below with the actions that the school have taken to address these (along with any limitations we may have due to legal restrictions)

You said	We did
Can we put a one-way system on the path?	We are not legally allowed to put markings on the pavement so are unable to enforce this. However, we do appreciate parents standing on the opposite side of the road while waiting for their class' dropoff/collection slot as this helps reduce contact
Can everyone wear masks?	Whilst we cannot enforce everyone wearing masks, it would help reduce risk if parents were able to wear masks during their drop-off/collection slot at any times where they are closer than 2m to other families
What can we do about parking?	We appreciate that people are making an effort to park away from where queues are formed. We are distributing leaflets to raise awareness and will continue to do so sporadically. We have put out cones outside KS1 to keep the busiest area clear. We will be putting out parking safety signs from this week. We have contacted the Highways Agency about increasing road markings. We do not have the authority to close to traffic.
What can we do to help collection where there are multiple siblings?	A few schools have released siblings at the same time, however this can cause a safeguarding risks through the mixing of bubbles. It also eats into learning time for some pupils. We would like to avoid this. As Reception have the earliest collection time, we have sent a message out to parents

	recommend that you drop-off/pick-up at the end of one slot for the first sibling, and
	S,
	then the start of the next slot for the
	second sibling, and so on.
Can we reduce the number of people	After collecting and releasing children
waiting outside school?	within a wider window to support families
	in adjusting to the routine, we are now
	sticking strictly to the timings given. As
	families have become used to this routine,
	it is reducing congestion. We are grateful to
	those that are waiting on the other side of
	the road when their class is not being
	released – this is helpful. Finally, we would
	like to thank people for arriving and leaving
	promptly as this reduces the number of
	people in the vicinity.

about how we can support them with

It is worth bearing in mind that all school sites are different and what can be achieved safely in one school cannot necessarily be applied safely in another.

As further government guidance and parental feedback is received, we will continue to adapt our provision. Our in-school safety measures and risk assessment have been audited by the trust to assure the safety of all of our pupils and the senior leadership team regularly review these to ensure that they are the safest and most effective measures that can be put in place. As a reminder, some of the measures that we are taking to keep everyone safe and secure are below.

## What we are doing in school

We are working hard to keep the children and adults in school safe whilst continuing to provide a high-quality education. The measures we are taking include:

- Adults socially distancing and children distancing as far as is possible and realistic
- All children sat in rows facing the front and front-facing during lunchtimes
- Desks are spread out as far as classroom space allows
- Children arrive and remain in their PE kits on their PE day
- Regular handwashing at all transition points including entry to the school, entry and exit to the classroom and whenever
- Children are in year group 'bubbles'. This is maintained at break and lunch time through the playground being separated into zones
- Each year group enters and exits through one point at the start and end of the day
- Robust risk assessments for the few visitors that we allow in (e.g. socially-distanced learning workshops)
- No sharing of food
- Each child provided with individual stationery pack and in the cases of learning equipment such as in maths, these are limited to use only by the two children on a desk
- No large gatherings. All assemblies are now done remotely.
- Quarantining returned books before they are borrowed again

## Next steps

- 1. Masks: Based on the feedback that we have received; we know that some people would feel safer if masks were worn. Whilst we are unable to enforce this, we can promote the practice.
- 2. Parking: We appreciate every effort made with parking, so ask that we continue to work on keeping the pavements outside school (on both sides of the road) clear. We will continue to pursue the possibility of additional road markings through the council.
- 3. Reducing congestion: It has worked well when parents have waited on the opposite side of the road when they are waiting for their classes turn to be dismissed. We ask that you continue to do this.

Thank you once again for your support in these testing times. Through working together as a community we will ensure that the children are safe, secure and receiving the high standard of education that is expected of Northfield Manor.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pennington Head teacher

Email: <a href="mailto:enquiry@northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk">enquiry@northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk</a>
Website: <a href="mailto:www.northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk">www.northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk</a>









