



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

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year to you and your families.

I wish my first letter of the new year could be more uplifting, however, as you know, the national situation with Covid is even more challenging than before Christmas. Because of this, I want to confirm and explain a few things before the term starts.

Firstly, I want to confirm that Northfield Manor is open to all pupils from Tuesday 5th January 2021 as expected. All children should attend.

The government is keen to stress that although there is now a more transmissible strain of the virus and cases are rising, the risk to young children from Coronavirus remains low and the benefits of school outweigh the risk.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-schools-and-childcare-reopening>

However, you may be aware that there is growing pressure on the government to temporarily close all primary schools for a two-week period (except to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers) in line with all secondary schools and London primary schools. While this is not happening now, it could still happen in the future if the situation worsens.

So, we are in an evolving situation. We are opening for the term as planned, but it is as well for us all to be prepared in case the situation changes at any point. None of us want to see school closures again, we all want the children to receive the benefits of school, however, we must accept that rising transmission rates make this a possibility.

Should we have to close at any point, I will let you know immediately. You would then be given detailed communication regarding remote learning, critical worker places, provision of before and after-school care for critical workers' children and free school meals.

As always, we will hope for the best but plan for the worst.

In the meantime, we will continue to stringently follow the government guidance and our Covid risk assessment.

Yours faithfully
Sandra Pennington
Headteacher

Covid Safety Reminders when dropping off and collecting pupils

1. Always maintain a 2-metre social distance.
2. Wear a mask when queueing (particularly KS1 and Reception parents).
3. If you must travel by car, park a few minutes away from school to allow pedestrians to make full use of the pavement space. Don't block pavements and force children to walk into the road or on neighbours' gardens!
4. Only 1 adult to bring pupils to school thereby reducing crowding.
5. Keep to your child's time slot. (You must not send a child through the school office/reception entrance unless they are in Year 3 or Year 4 and in their designated bubble slot). Avoid being late. If you are late your child must only go through the main office reception **after 8.55am** when all other bubbles are already in classrooms.
6. Do not ask to speak to staff face to face at dropping off/collecting time. Dojo the teacher directly or phone the office and a member of staff will phone you back.

Email: enquiry@northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk

Website: www.northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk

