

Headteacher Mr M Cunniffe

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear parents,

### Looking Forward to the New Academic Year 2024-25

The Northbrook Primary Academy staff have been working hard during the INSET days this week to prepare for the children's return tomorrow. We are all looking forward to having everyone back at school and are excited for the new academic year ahead. To ensure that we have a smooth start we wanted to highlight a few important points and give you some key information.

#### The school day

Our school opens at 8:30am-8:40am each morning for our **free breakfast club, open to all our children** in the dining hall. Children attending the breakfast club need to enter school through the main reception. They will be signed in before making their way to the dining hall. The club will be staffed by Northbrook Primary Academy teaching assistants, who will oversee the children and then ensure they move to their classrooms at 8:45am in time for registration. The breakfast on offer will include bagels, a range of cereals and porridge.

If children are not attending the breakfast club they should arrive at school between 8:45-8:55am. If your child arrives after 8:55am they will need to enter school through the afterschool club entrance and a late mark will be recorded. School finishes at 3:10pm for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Whilst Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 finish at 3:15pm. If you are not sure where to drop off or collect your children please review the school website [here](#).

Any children travelling to and from school by bike or scooter must dismount and push their bike/scooter whilst on school grounds. All bikes/scooters must be stored in the 'bike shed' located next to the Reception entrance.

We kindly request that parents do not use the staff car park at the start and end of school times and park with consideration when using the local roads.


#### School Uniform

A smart uniform is really important to us in school as it helps foster a sense of belonging and equality. Our children like to feel smart and have a sense of belonging. We wear our uniform with pride and ensure that fairness runs through the school. If you need to do a last-minute check of uniform requirements please check the website <https://northbrookpa.org/parents-carers/school-uniform> and any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us



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on [enquiries@northbrookpa.org](mailto:enquiries@northbrookpa.org). We have some good quality uniform in school that we can supply to children in any families that are having difficulty buying new uniform. Please note that we will be checking uniform and contacting parents if children attend school without adhering to the school's appearance and uniform policy.

Our complimentary uniform for the reception intake arrived in school over the summer and we would like to thank all of you that have collected the uniform from school this week. If you have been unable to collect from school we will send the uniform home with your child tomorrow.

## Engagement in Learning

We have established a really positive learning culture at Northbrook and love the fact that our children arrive at lessons 'ready to learn'. Over the next few weeks we will be challenging our children to be 'fully engaged' with their learning. We will be reminding them that they can achieve this by:

- ✓ Demonstrating the school's HEART values.
- ✓ Quickly focusing on learning – show a love of learning!
- ✓ Work hard - completing activities to the best of their ability.
- ✓ Want to answer questions and give opinions - even if they are not sure if they are right.
- ✓ Present work neatly.
- ✓ Work independently.
- ✓ Be resilient – don't give up when learning is tough, or they get something wrong.



Children who demonstrate these attributes will find that they will move up the gauge and our 'NPA Superstars' will be awarded their superstar sticker at the end of each day. This is something that needs to be celebrated at home as it is a real achievement!

During Wednesday's assembly we will also remind all our children how each of them has the right to learn in a safe and calm environment. Sometimes, however, children may make a choice not to work to the best of their ability or to distract others. If this happens, teachers will support them to make the right choice and give them 'time to think' and explain what they need to do to change. If their behaviours do not change, they will then be collected from their classrooms so they have 'time to reset' whilst class teachers can continue to teach. When they are collected from class they will be taken to our 'Reset' classroom where they will reflect on their choices and complete work. They will then return to class when they are 'Ready to learn'. Parents will be informed when children have needed 'Time to reset'. Parents will be informed through a ParentApp message and/or email. Where it is possible teaching staff will be available to speak to parents at the end of the school day.

## Checking Understanding

During the INSET days, all staff have been considering how we will help support all children to be fully engaged in their learning, therefore thinking more, making meaning by connecting new learning with prior knowledge and practising through an application of their knowledge.

We have focused on developing the way that we check understanding through questioning, use of 'show me' boards and cooperative learning structures with children working in groups or pairs. These strategies will help teachers to challenge children to be in the 'learning zone' and reduce times when they can opt out. This means that some children may feel that learning is harder, and staff have expected more from them than previously. We would appreciate your support in helping our children understand this and for some it will involve being expected to give answers to appropriately pitched questions in class, possibly pushing them out of their 'comfort zone'.

### **Over the next few days**

Teaching staff will communicate with you to welcome the NPA community back to school and make sure you are aware of key information such as which days they will need to attend in PE kit for their PE lessons. PE lessons will start from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, so please do not worry about PE kit over the next few days. We will publish our after-school club offer, homework challenges and curriculum overviews for each class at the start of the next week, once our children have settled back into the routine of school. For those children who are having school dinners and are not entitled to FREE school meals, please make sure that your child's parent pay account is topped up and that we are aware of any dietary needs. Again, any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

We hope that you have all had a great summer break, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel there is some important information that you need to make us aware of, to allow us to best support your child. We are really looking forward to helping ensure that every member of the NPA community can be the very best they can be!

Kindest regards,

*M Cunniffe*

Mr M Cunniffe  
Headteacher