



The
**Birkenhead Park
School**

Parent Information Guide



**Everything you need
to know for when your
son/daughter joins us in
September 2021.**



Welcome

Welcome to The Birkenhead Park School. We are delighted that your child is joining us in September.

We have enclosed information that we hope you find useful to help support the transition from primary school and answer any questions that you may have at this stage.

This booklet includes information on:

- The Year 7 team
- What to expect in September
- The school day
- Support
- Uniform
- The Big Read
- Keeping in touch



Key dates:



Friday 3rd September
COVID Test in School 2pm - 4:30pm



Monday 6th September
Induction Session 8:45am - 11am



Tuesday 7th September
First Day of Term 8:35am - 3pm

OUR Approach

Our aim as a school is to achieve “Ambition and Excellence for All” and we are committed to providing the best possible education for every student.

We believe that children have the very best chance to succeed if they are in a happy and inspiring environment. Our exceptional staff create this on a daily basis so our students are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Central to this are our values which underpin every aspect of daily school life:

Positivity - we are positive about what we do and what others can do

Ambition - we will work to raise aspirations and develop a strong desire for success

Resilience - we will be determined and not give up when faced with difficulties

Thoughtfulness - we treat everyone with respect and consideration

Our values have stood us in good stead during the last 18 months and as we approach the ‘new norm’ in September, I am confident they will continue to drive us to provide the very best education and support for our students.



Helen Johnson

Headteacher

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

headteacher@birkenheadparkschool.com

0151 652 1574

Year 7 TEAM



Mrs Kirwan
Pastoral Leader
(Years 7, 8 & 9)

As the Pastoral Leader, my team and I are here to support your child with the transition from primary to secondary school.

The Year 7 pastoral team go to great lengths to help your child feel welcome. Our hugely experienced team includes dedicated Form Tutors who will know your child well. Miss Chong and I are always available before, during and after the school day.

I feel very excited to be part of your child's next steps in education and look forward to a secure, happy and successful Year 7 for all at The Birkenhead Park School.



Miss Chong
Year 7
Year Leader

With our help, your child will quickly settle into school life, making new friendships and learning lots of new things.

Our school offers a safe, caring and supportive environment so that your child can achieve their very best. We will always be around to discuss any problems or worries they may have along the way. If we all work together, we can ensure your child reaches their full potential.

Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Information about your child's individual needs is gathered during the transition period by key staff. The school's assessment and screening procedures are used to give us an up-to-date profile of learning needs against our thresholds for SEN support.

We have a strong team of Teaching Assistants and Teachers who specialise in providing a range of support strategies to ensure that every member of the school community thrives. Our focus is on providing high quality teaching which addresses any difficulties in the acquisition of literacy and/or numeracy skills, and the social and emotional aspects of learning. We have close relationships with other agencies and incorporate specialist advice into Person Centred Plans where appropriate.

Miss Weekes is the Assistant Headteacher who coordinates all of the school's SEND provision.



COVID MEASURES

We will continue to follow government guidance and the following measures will be in place at the start of term:

In School:

Good hand hygiene - frequent and thorough handwashing should be regular practice amongst students and staff.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it' continues to be important

Enhanced cleaning regimes will continue throughout school

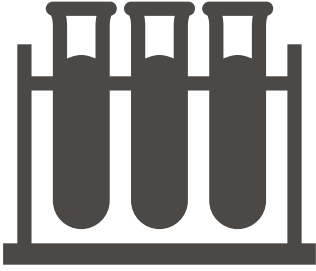
All rooms in the school will be well ventilated

Students should **NOT** attend school if they have any Covid symptoms, have had a positive test result or if there is another reason requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on Covid (e.g. required to quarantine).

Face masks, social distancing and student bubbles are no longer required but may be re-introduced based on local Public Health advice if infection rates are rising in the region.

Full details of our Covid controls and measures can be found in the school Risk Assessment: birkenheadparkschool.com/coronavirus





COVID TESTING

TESTING:

Testing will continue to play an important role in the management of Covid. Students will be expected to do:

- **Two onsite lateral flow tests at the start of term** – these will be 3-5 days apart and students will be given full instructions and will be supervised when they take the tests.
- **Twice weekly lateral flow tests at home.** After their second onsite test, students will be given home testing kits and expected to do tests every 3-4 days at home and report their results. Full details will be given with the test kits. The requirement for home testing will be reviewed by the Government at the end of September.

Whilst participation in testing is voluntary, we strongly encourage students to play their part in keeping everyone in the school safe.

SELF ISOLATION:

From September, the management of close contacts with a positive case will be done by NHS Test & Trace, not the school. In most cases students will no longer have to self-isolate if they are classed as a close contact but they will be asked by NHS Test & Trace to take a PCR test. Students can continue in school unless their PCR test result is positive.

If a student does have to self-isolate and is well enough, they will still be able to participate in their timetabled lessons/tutor time remotely via Microsoft Teams.

INDUCTION SESSION



Monday 6th September

Induction Session 8:45am - 11am

Students can arrive from 8:00am to access a free breakfast.



Each student will be given:

- A complimentary school bag
- Their school lanyard + timetable
- A stationery set that you must bring to school with you every day

Please don't bring:

- Your PE Kit

School DAY

For Year 7 only, the school day timings are as follows:

School Day 20/21	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Club	8:00 - 8:35am	8:00 - 8:35am	8:00 - 8:35am	8:00 - 8:35am	8:00 - 8:35am
Tutor Time	8:35 - 9:15am	8:35 - 9:15am	8:35 - 9:15am	8:35 - 9:15am	8:35 - 9:15am
Lesson 1	9:15 - 10:15am	9:15 - 10:15am	9:15 - 10:15am	9:15 - 10:15am	9:15 - 10:15am
Lesson 2	10:15 - 11:15am	10:15 - 11:15am	10:15 - 11:15am	10:15 - 11:15am	10:15 - 11:15am
Break	11:15 - 11:30am	11:15 - 11:30am	11:15 - 11:30am	11:15 - 11:30am	11:15 - 11:30am
Lesson 3	11:30 - 12:30pm	11:30 - 12:30pm	11:30 - 12:30pm	11:30 - 12:30pm	11:30 - 12:30pm
Lunch	12:30 - 1pm	12:30 - 1pm	12:30 - 1pm	12:30 - 1pm	12:30 - 1pm
Period 4	1 - 2pm	1 - 2pm	1 - 2pm	1 - 2pm	1 - 2pm
Period 5	2 - 3pm	2 - 3pm	2 - 3pm	2 - 3pm	2 - 3pm
Students Finish	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm

WEEKS A/B

The above school timetable will operate on a two week cycle between **Week A** and **Week B**.

The timings of each day and the number of lessons remains the same between the two weeks. However, the content of your child's timetable will be different as they do different lessons in Week A compared to Week B.

School MEALS

We serve a wide choice of food and drinks in the school canteen which opens at 8am each morning for Breakfast Club. This environment allows students to benefit from a positive nutritional balance supporting a healthy lifestyle, and meals are served that reflect the cultural, medical and dietary needs of our students.



You may be able to claim **Free School Meals** if, as a parent, you receive financial support from the government.

You can apply for Free School Meals online using this link:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral>

We would encourage you to take up your entitlement to Free School Meals if you are eligible.

Find the latest school dinner menus and prices on our website here:

www.birkenheadparkschool.com/parents/schoolmeals





Mobile PHONES



To support travel to/from school we recognise that there is a safeguarding need for students to have a mobile phone. However, as mobile phones are a distraction to teaching and learning, if a student chooses to bring a mobile phone to school it is on the understanding that they agree to the following actions:

- Mobile phones must be switched off and placed in their school bag as they enter the school building. It is not acceptable for phones to go in coat/blazer pockets.
- The phone must be kept in the school bag until the students leave the building at 3pm.
- The school accepts no liability for lost or damaged mobile phones, and they remain the student's responsibility if they choose to bring it to school.

School UNIFORM

The school uniform is considered a very important aspect of the school ethos and full uniform is expected to be worn by all of our students every day.

The uniform consists of:

- A black blazer with a red trim and the school badge
- A white shirt/blouse
- School clip-on tie; no other type is permitted
- Black school trousers or black skirt - girls' trousers must be tailored
- Flat, plain black shoes, or all black trainers (boots and training shoes are not permitted)
- A school jumper, tank top or black cardigan may be worn provided they are fine knit
- Plain black or white socks, black tights

PE Kit:

All PE Kit has to have The Birkenhead Park School logo on:

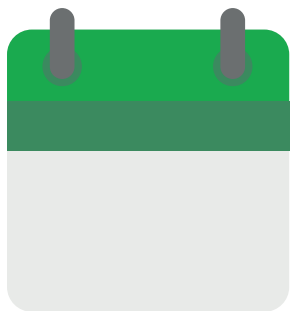
- Black and red polo shirt with logo (girls)
- Black and red Football top with logo (boys)
- Black and red shorts with logo
- Black socks
- Trainers
- Football boots/shin pads (optional)
- Towel

The items in red are only available from Wirral Uniforms (www.wirraluniforms.com).

Other items may be bought from any local supplier as long as they are not branded.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY FLAT, PLAIN BLACK SHOES are allowed. No footwear with a coloured trim/logo will be allowed.





Term Dates

2021 - 2022

For Year 7 Students

Autumn Term 2021

COVID Test in School- Friday 3rd September 2021

2pm - 4:30pm

Induction Session - Monday 6th September

8:45am-11am

First Day of Term - Tuesday 7th September

8:35am

Half Term: Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October 2021

Open: Monday 1st November - Thursday 25th November 2021

Open: Monday 19th November - Friday 17th December 2021

Christmas Holiday: Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January 2022

Spring Term 2022

Open: Wednesday 5th January - Friday 18th February 2022

Half Term: Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February 2022

Open: Monday 28th February - Friday 8th April 2022

Spring Break: Monday 11th April- Friday 22nd April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Open: Monday 25th April - Friday 29th May 2022

May Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022

Open: Tuesday 3rd May - Friday 27th May 2022

Half Term: Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June 2022

Open: Monday 6th June - Wednesday 20th July 2022

Inset Day: Thursday 21st July 2022

Summer Holidays: Friday 22nd July 2022

The big read



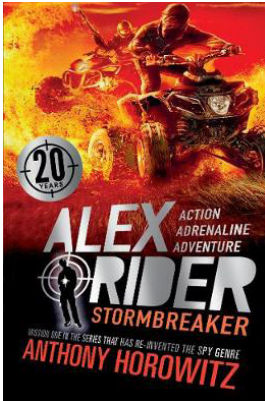
“Ambition and excellence for all” is what we strive for at BPS, and developing a love reading is key to academic success. Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 take part in our ‘Big Read’. Each morning students read for 30 minutes with their form tutor and follow along using their own personalised bookmarks.

There are a great range of books covering different themes, issues and cultures which also include some ambitious texts. We are dedicated to closing the reading and vocabulary gap and have carefully selected this strategy based on clear research that has been proven to work.

Each form tutor has read the book that students will read and produced inspiring assemblies to introduce the book, knowledge organisers that allow us to delve into the meaning of selected vocabulary and a range of discussion questions so that students can share their own views and experiences. The Big Read will improve students’ reading and vocabulary and also ignite a love of reading.



Miss Dawes
Assistant Headteacher
The Big Read Leader



What difference can I make as a parent?

You can make a huge difference! As part of the summer activity pack, your son/daughter will have received a copy of 'Alex Rider; Stormbreaker' by Anthony Horowitz. Parents are the most important educators in a child's life and it's always good to read together. Therefore we are asking you to support us in encouraging your child to read at home with 'Alex Rider; Stormbreaker.'



Learning to read is about understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through reading, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding and allow them to express themselves confidently. It's important for them to become 'word rich' so that they can write and speak confidently and fluently. This is a skill that benefits young people and leads to academic success but also lasts a lifetime.



SUMMER SCHOOL

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to Summer School. Students will enjoy a week of fun activities in numeracy, literacy, science, performing arts, cooking and sport. The week will provide our new starters a great opportunity to build confidence, make new friends, have fun and get familiar with the school.

There is no charge for summer school and breakfast and lunch will be provided each day.

We will be running **two** Summer Schools:

Summer School 1: **Mon 26th – Fri 30th July - FULL**

Summer School 2: **Mon 2nd – Fri 6th August - LIMITED PLACES STILL AVAILABLE**

If you haven't booked a place, please email Mrs Kirwan at:
pki@birkenheadparkschool.com



KEEPING IN *Touch*

We always work hard to keep you up-to-date with what is going on across the school and with your child's learning and development. It is vital that we work together to ensure your child achieves their full potential and communication is crucial to that success. There are a number of ways we will communicate with you to ensure you get the relevant information and updates.

Email

Email will be our main way of communicating with you and any letters informing you of important information about the school will be emailed to you.

If you need to contact us, please email:
offices@birkenheadparkschool.com

Text messages

We will contact you at times via text message.

Website (www.birkenheadparkschool.com)

Our website is regularly updated with good news stories and events. It is a great source of information about the school and may help you answer important questions about the school.



The Birkenhead Park School



@BPSWirral



any questions?

If you have a question that hasn't

been covered in this Welcome

Guide, please don't hesitate to

send your questions to:

offices@birkenheadparkschool.com

Ambition **AND**
EXCELLENCE
FOR ALL

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