# Parents' Handbook 2024-25



# WELCOME

We warmly welcome you and your child to North Bridge House Prep School. The information contained in this handbook is intended to answer some of the frequently asked questions as you begin your journey with us.

Throughout their time here, your child will enjoy a multitude of wonderful learning opportunities. They will form lasting relationships with their peers and, most importantly, they will continue to be extremely happy and confident children.

## AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- To create a dynamic learning environment in which all children discover their individual pathway to academic success.
- To equip young people with the confidence, humility, and resilience to thrive in everything they do.
- To empower young people to be creative, inspired and to inspire.
- To nurture strong relationships within an inclusive, empathetic community.

NBH provide a nurturing environment that focuses on all aspects of the curriculum rather than just one. Whether it's bringing the best out of a child who loves English, Maths, Science, Music or Sports, the teachers can see the child's potential and they ensure the child can further develop their strengths. Prep School parent



# SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

- In the first two weeks of September, we will hold our Parent Information Meeting. At this event, parents will find out about the year ahead in more detail the curriculum, timetable, homework, online learning platforms and other useful information. There will be an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher at collection.
- Every Friday afternoon, you will receive weekly newsletter with notices and celebrations of school life via Cognita Connect.
- The Head of Year or the class teacher will contact parents via email about any matters regarding classroom life, learning and class-specific notices.
- Every term, we hold 'Parent Rep meetings' for each year of the school. These are a chance for the parent representatives from each class to meet the school leadership team and discuss a variety of topics. Notes from the meeting are then shared with other parents. Please contact the Headteacher or your class teacher if you would like to become a class parent representative.
- Every child receives log-in details for a Microsoft Teams account, which is a platform we successfully used for the whole school online teaching and learning provision during the lockdown. In the Autumn term, we will inform you how these will be used.

• Parents' evenings take place twice a year. Parents will be notified of the date in advance on the school calendar in the Cognita Connect app.

- If you wish to contact your class teacher, please email them directly. Their contact details will be shared with you at prior to the start of the academic year. Teachers are usually available for a brief chat at the end of the day, when dismissing the children. If you would like to set up a meeting, please arrange this with them via email.
- Cognita Connect is our secure app and web-based parent portal. It will give you 24-hour access to personalised news and information in relation to your child(ren)'s school life and activities via your mobile, tablet or desktop device.

# SCHOOL DAY

# TIMINGS OF THE DAY FOR RECEPTION – YEAR 2

08:20: Gate opens 08:30: Teachers take pupils to their classrooms 08:30: Registration 15:30: School Day ends 15:30-17:00: After School Clubs 17:00-18:00: Main School "Teatime" Club

## TIMINGS OF THE DAY FOR YEAR 3 – YEAR 8

08:20: Gate opens 08:30: Registration 15:45: School Day ends 15:45-17:00: After School Clubs

#### MORNING DROP OFF

Prior to the start of the academic year, you will receive information about the drop off time and which gate your year group will be using. Registration is a legal requirement; we therefore ask that children are punctual so that registers can be marked correctly. Punctuality also lessens disruption to the class.

If you arrive at school after 08:30, please enter school via the main school gates. You will need to sign your child in at the reception desk and then hand your child over to a member of the NBH team who will take them to their classroom. This is important so that we may account for your child at all times.

#### AFTERNOON PICK UP

Children can be collected from the following times at the end of the day:

15:30 – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 15:45 – Year 3 and Year 4 15:45 – Year 5 and 6 15:45 – Year 7 and Year 8

The gate closes at 15:45 for Reception and Years 1 and 2 and 16:00 for Years 3 to 8. Children who have not been collected by this time are taken by their class teacher to the front desk at the school reception. Any children not collected by 16:10 will be sent to Homework Club.

In instances of late arrival or late pick-up, please call reception, or email the class teacher and reception at prep.reception@northbridgehouse.com

#### TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL

We encourage the children to travel to and from school using scooters, bicycle or by walking. Children may leave their scooters and bicycles in our scooter bay in the PWP playground on school premises during the day. Whilst we do understand that some need to travel further distances or logistics require the use of a car.

#### TRANSPORT

We offer an extensive coach service as well as an inter-site shuttle bus, connecting the NBH campuses for those children closer to or with siblings at our other schools. Information about the booking of the NBH shuttle service, the coach service and the late coach service will be available through our internal portal Cognita Connect. Please ensure you book transport for September as soon as possible. All bookings are subject to availability. Given the

parking restrictions and the safety of the children, we ask parents not to stop outside the school to drop off. It can be difficult to get parked nearby, so please do allow time for this.

Please remind your child how they are getting home each day and if using the coach, please ensure that they know their stop. If there are any changes, please email both their class teacher and reception staff in charge of transport at transport@northbridgehouse.com

# ATTENDANCE

Good school attendance and punctuality are vital for learning and progress. At NBH Prep, attendance above 96% is considered good. Please always inform reception and the class teacher of any absences. We encourage parents to book any non-emergency medical appointments outside school hours. For absence during term time, a request must be made in writing in advance directly to the Headteacher. The Headteacher is only able to authorise leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. Authorised leave is unlikely to be granted for the purpose of a family holiday.

# IF SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF IS COLLECTING YOUR CHILD

If you are unable to collect your child and have given permission for someone else (known or unknown to us) to do so, you will need to telephone or email your child's class teacher and our admin team: 020 7267 6266 (option 5) / prep.reception@northbridgehouse.com. If we have not received confirmation from you, we will not release your child.



# CURRICULUM

# ACADEMIC

You will be sent more detailed curriculum information, including a class timetable, curriculum map and knowledge organisers, at the start of the Autumn Term. This will provide you with an overview of what your child will be learning and developing across the term, plus ideas for supporting your child at home. You will also receive the 'Week Ahead' as a reminder for events coming up via Cognita Connect application.

#### CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

From Reception through to Year 4, class teachers teach English (phonics in Reception), maths, science, computing, geography, history, PSHE and RE. All lessons are planned in conjunction with the specialist head of subject. Reception through to Year 4 benefit from specialist teaching in art, drama, French, music and sport.

From Year 5 all lessons are taught by subject specialists in English, maths, science, art, computing, critical thinking (focused on verbal and non-verbal reasoning as well as exam technique and skills), drama, French, geography, general studies (a mixture of units grounding children in the world around them, developing their ability to understand a range of topics with confidence and passion), history, music and sport. Children also choose an additional foreign language to study, from Latin, Mandarin or Spanish.

In Year 7 there is the introduction of design and technology, ancient Greek and politics, philosophy and economics (PPE).

#### HOMEWORK

All children will be set regular homework tasks that link to the learning taking place in school.

Reception pupils will receive reading words and reading books. We recommend that pupils read for ten minutes each day to their parent/caregiver. In Years 1 and 2, there will be a maths and an English task to be completed each week. There will also be 10 spellings sent home to practise and revise each week, with a spelling test to follow. We encourage the children to attempt all homework tasks and complete what they can to the best of their ability.

Starting from Year 3, in addition to handwritten homework, we make use of carefully selected and reputable online learning platforms to enhance pupil learning. They use, by and large, adaptive algorithms to tailor the questions at the right level, depending on the users' answers. This artificial intelligence ensures that children have the right balance between experiencing success and being challenged. These platforms include Times Tables Rock Stars, Atom Learning and MyMaths.

#### ASSESSMENT

At the end of each term, in class, the children will complete assessments in phonics, reading, writing and mathematics. In addition to this, there might be subject specific quizzes depending on the Year group.

These summative assessments will be used to monitor the pupils' academic progress and to support teachers' formative assessments. Teachers will notify parents when these assessments are due to take place.

# CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will perform in our annual school Christmas Concert in the autumn term and give a final performance in the summer term. During our assemblies, children also receive weekly awards, such as the 'Star of the Week'.

Starting from Year 3, our assembly programme is used to teach the school's values of Kindness, Respect and Determination, and set children up for life in the modern world, with a sound grasp of democratic values and knowledge of different religions and beliefs. During our assemblies, children will receive weekly awards, such as the 'Star of The Week' and the 'Merit Cup'.

At the end of each term pupils come together as a whole school to celebrate their achievements. Awards are given for excellence in co-curricular activities, as well as merit winners, STAR pupils and effort prizes. The house cup is also awarded to the house that has achieved the greatest number of house points that term. Pupils also enjoy termly House Assemblies, which are led by their Head of House and House Captains from Years 6 & 8. These are opportunities for pupils across the year groups to get to know each other and build a sense of community.

## BEHAVIOUR

In every year group, in every context, we constantly promote and refer to our three school values: Kindness, Respect and Determination. We do this by talking to the children, modelling what each value looks like in practice and rewarding children when we see them demonstrating these. The classroom teachers set their classroom behavioural expectations, which enable children to learn in a calm and orderly environment, free from disruption. Children receive merits for their effort, work, attitude and for doing 'the right thing'. At times, when children's behaviour is hindering their learning or has been at odds with our values, a behaviour point may be given. In such instances we work together to get back on track.

#### HOUSES

All pupils and staff at NBH Prep become a member of a House Team. We have four houses: Netherhall, Providence, Raphael and Tanaka. All children will be told their house before they arrive in September. The merits children earn for good work and behaviour will go towards their house points too. Houses also come together as teams for various activities such as sporting events and school competitions.

# WHAT TO BRING EACH DAY

- School bag
- Reading book (provided by school)
- Snack (healthy snack, which does not contain nuts or sesame, for morning break)
- Water bottle
- Laptop, laptop bag and charger (from Year 3 upwards) this will be provided by the school on the first day of school

Please do not allow your child to bring any expensive items or toys into school. Children are not permitted to bring toys into the playground or play with them during the day. Each year group has a range of play equipment to use at break times.

# LIBRARY

There will be an opportunity for all children to visit the library. Reception to Year 4 children have timetabled visits, where they will be guided on their book choices.

There will also be opportunities for the children to visit the library during break times and form times so that they can return/renew books. Pupils can borrow two books at a time. Detailed library procedures will be explained to children at the start of the autumn term.

#### OUTINGS

There are several outings planned throughout the year, linking closely with learning that takes place in school. You will be notified in advance of the dates and venues of the outings. Please note, that school blazers must be worn on school outings.

## RECOMMENDED READING LIST

At NBH Prep, we emphasise the importance of reading books at every opportunity. We use great literature in our English lessons across the years, in whole-class shared reading and guided reading sessions. We also promote individual reading, for example through frequent discussion about what children and teachers read, book reviews and recommendations, and the use of the school library.

As well as growing to enjoy books and the pleasure they bring, regular reading of books is key in developing fluency and efficiency in word decoding and building reading stamina and focus (especially when books compete with attention-catching devices). The reading mind is learning to follow complex sentences and importantly, build stores of new knowledge and vocabulary across different contexts in children's memories. Reading lists will be sent home early in the Autumn Term. We also have a reading canon with six curated book choices to expose our pupils to books from a variety of genres, authors and to provide our pupils with cultural capital. In addition, an international reading canon is provided for children with English as a second language, again to ensure that our pupils read quality texts to provide them with cultural capital.

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND ENRICHMENT

# CLUBS

We offer a wide range of after school clubs and activities, which cater for many different interests and talents. The list of clubs and their timetable will be shared at the start of each term. Parents will be able to sign up via our school app Cognita Connect. Places are offered on first come, first served basis but we do operate a waiting list for clubs, which is carried over to the next term for the most popular clubs. Please email prep.reception@ northbridgehouse.com with any queries you may have.

## INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Our music provision encompasses a wide range of instrumental lessons, including violin, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, cello, drums, recorder, piano, and singing. In Year 1, students can begin lessons in guitar, violin, piano, and voice. As they progress to Year 3, our offerings expand to include the remaining instruments. Lessons are taught by visiting peripatetic teachers during the school day and on a rotation basis, which means that pupils will not have their music lesson at the same time each week, to prevent pupils from missing the same subject lesson numerous times.

Parents are encouraged to keep in communication with the peri teacher so they know of lesson times, what is being taught, and can help their child practise their instrument in between lessons. The school does not provide any instruments and so parents should organise the purchase of an instrument if necessary. In due course, parents will be invited to sign up for instrumental lessons, via the app.

## WRAP AROUND CARE

Our aim is to support you in ensuring your child is nurtured, happy, confident, and ready to learn. We provide an extended provision which operates from 07:45-18:00, providing care and enrichment for your child both before and after the school day.

# PASTORAL AND WELLBEING

Pastoral care and the wellbeing of your child from Reception through to Year 8 is at the heart of everything we do here at North Bridge House Prep School. Our vision for pastoral care and wellbeing is to cultivate a supportive, nurturing and dynamic environment where every child can flourish. We believe that by nurturing the heart, mind, and body, we lay the foundation for lifelong success and happiness. Our commitment to the holistic development of each child ensures that they are not only prepared for academic challenges but also equipped to lead fulfilling and balanced lives. This is implemented through form teachers, our PSHE curriculum, assemblies, and ongoing mental health education during form periods.

Our mental health practitioners are available if further one to one emotional support is needed beyond what your child's form teacher can provide. We also have an in-house psychotherapist to offer individualised support where there are acute needs.

In addition to what is offered at school, parents and carers have access to Tooled Up Education, a regularly updated digital library full of evidence-based tips, simple activities, advice-packed videos and enlightening podcasts, on all matters relating to parenting and family life. Tooled Up Education is curated by one of the UK's leading experts on parental engagement in children's lives and learning, Dr Kathy Weston.

# SETTLING IN FOR RECEPTION CHILDREN

The settling-in process is very important to us and crucial for your child's wellbeing, so for this reason the transition entry for Reception children allows them time to become familiar with their new surroundings in a nurturing way.

Our Early Years practitioners are very experienced in settling children into their new classes sensitively and will give feedback as to how your child is settling in. They will provide a variety of exciting activities and resources to assist in this process. Please be assured that the children will always be comforted, and that the environment is a nurturing one. We understand that it can be very difficult for parents to leave their children and we encourage you to drop off and leave them with a positive attitude, saying goodbye quickly whilst being reassuring. Staff will always be at hand to support with this. A small transitional object brought to school from home, such as a small cuddly toy or photo, can help with your child's settling in and emotional well-being during the early transition period.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP WITH YOUR CHILD'S TRANSITION

In Reception we aim to develop independent learners and the transition from Nursery to Reception should be a gentle and enjoyable one. To assist in this, we encourage children to be independent, which in turn develops confidence and self-esteem.

Over the Summer Holidays, please encourage your child to be able to be independent in dressing themselves, e.g. putting on their coats, uniform, and shoes without help (Velcro straps on uniform school shoes, including trainers for Gym are recommended). We encourage children to cut their own food up with a knife and fork. We will continue to develop independence throughout the year and support the children during this time of transition. We do, however, expect children to have successfully achieved independent toileting by the time they start Reception.

# KEY PERSON SYSTEM

Under the Statutory Guidelines of the EYFS, we operate a Key Person system. In Reception, both the class teacher and Learning Assistant are Key People. We believe that children settle in best when they have a Key Person to relate to, who knows them and their parents well, and who can meet their individual needs. Research shows that a Key Person approach benefits the child by providing secure relationships in which the children thrive.

The Key Person will closely follow your child's development and keep track of their progress in his/her Learning Journal. The Learning Journal is a file in which we keep evidence of your child's learning, which include photographs, observations and information relating to your child's development. You will have many opportunities to look at this throughout the year.

Although each child is assigned a Key Person, all adults working with your child class will form effective and positive relationships with all the children, aiding their learning and development continuously.

#### TRANSITION BETWEEN YEAR GROUPS

In the summer term, we hold a 'Move-Up Morning' where children can spend the morning with their new class teacher and classmates for the following academic year.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

# LUNCHTIME

School provides a two-course meal, cooked on the premises, every day. The menu will be sent out to parents in advance, via Cognita Connect. Special dietary requirements can be catered for upon request if your child has an allergy, intolerance or requires specific food for religious reasons.

Staff supervise lunches in the dining rooms, sensitively encouraging children to eat and to use good table manners. We do not permit packed lunches or food to be sent in from home.

## HEALTHY SNACKS

As we are sure you are aware, the link between nutrition and learning is well documented. Healthy eating patterns are essential for pupils to achieve their full academic potential and their full physical and mental growth. At North Bridge House we believe that we have a responsibility to help pupils establish and maintain lifelong healthy eating patterns, so we have a few rules about snacks that pupils may bring to school.

#### No Nuts and No Seeds

We operate a strictly no-nuts and no seeds policy in order to safeguard children with severe allergies. Please ensure that the snacks you send to school do not contain nuts or seeds.

#### Exceptions to the snack policy

We like to celebrate the children's birthdays and special events, and, on these occasions, children like to share a cake with their classmates. Children are welcome to bring in baked goods to school however, the 'Ingredients List Form' must be submitted via the Cognita Connect application.

#### MEDICATION

Only prescribed medication can be administered by staff. If your child requires prescribed medicine in any form, your child's teacher needs written permission to administer it, which must include clear instructions on the dosage required and the frequency. Without such authorisation we are unable to administer any prescribed medication during school time.

All teachers have prescribed medication authorisation forms that must be completed in conjunction with parents on the premises.

#### INDIVIDUAL HEALTH CARE PLANS

Please ensure that you have completed a data collection sheet regarding your child. This must be handed to your child's class teacher.

#### FIRST AID AT SCHOOL

We ensure that we promote the safety and good health of all the children in our care. Although it is common amongst children to have minor bumps and falls, the prevention of this and minor injuries becoming major ones is paramount. All our staff have First Aid Training and are qualified and able to deal with injuries and will give immediate care to the child. Parents will be notified of all accidents. We also have a school nurse on site who will treat, record and monitor any accidents and injuries that may occur. Parents will always be notified of any incidents.

If we feel the child would benefit from medical attention through a GP or the hospital, we will contact parents immediately and will also follow our procedures according to the child's injury. Our procedure outlines when to call for help when necessary, such as an ambulance or emergency medical advice from professionals. We ensure that first aid provision is available at all times, including out of school trips, during PE, and at other

times when the school facilities are used. We use Medical Tracker to record administration of first aid. An email notification will be sent to you via Medical Tracker.

#### ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

Regular school attendance from an early age creates a culture about the importance of education and learning so that all can benefit equally. Missing learning time leaves children vulnerable to falling behind and it is well-known that poor attendance leads to lower levels of achievement. The foundation for good attendance is a strong partnership between the school, parents and the child, beginning from the early years. Regular attendance at school is important for your child's educational development and well-being.

If your child is absent due to illness, please telephone the school by 08:00.

A telephone call or an email to prep.reception@northbridgehouse.com (cc'ing the class teacher) are the most efficient methods of informing us. We ask that when reporting absence due to illness, parents provide as much detail and clarity on diagnosis and treatment as possible. This will enable the school to respond quickly to any outbreaks of contagious diseases, such as chicken pox.

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time for any reason, please fill in an Absence Request Form, which will be submitted to the Headteacher and his PA for authorisation.

Early Years practitioners may be the first people to notice children becoming ill. Dependent upon the nature of the illness, parents may be requested to collect their child immediately and take him/her home or to the GP. If we are unable to contact parents, we will automatically contact the alternate persons named on their data collection form.

Symptoms and illnesses requiring a child's removal from school will include, but not limited to: Covid19, diarrhoea, vomiting, and a higher-than-normal temperature.

If a child has been vomiting or had diarrhoea, parents are requested not to bring your child back to school until 48 hours has elapsed from the last symptoms.

If your child sustains an injury outside of school, parents are asked to inform a member of staff on arrival at school.

#### PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We recognise that as parents you know your child best and through our partnership with parents, we will work with you to share information. We encourage parents to be involved within the school and invite you to come in if you wish to share any talents or skills e.g., playing a musical instrument, etc. This also includes celebrating special festivals and sharing information about your profession or culture e.g., talking about being a doctor/ dentist.

# FRIENDS OF NORTH BRIDGE HOUSE (FoNBH)

All parents are Friends of North Bridge House.

Led by a steering committee of parent reps for each class, the FoNBH's key function revolves around whole school community events such as the School Discos, 2nd Hand Uniform sales and the annual Summer Fete. These events are a great opportunity to bring the community together whilst raising funds for charities. Each year a range of charities are chosen by the school with all proceeds raised going directly to them.

The school holds termly 'Parent Rep' meetings in each year group with the Headteacher and relevant Head of Year.

All parents are encouraged to participate in events across the year, whether that be through supporting with the organisation behind the scenes, supporting on the day of the event or simply attending an event.



# SCHOOL UNIFORM

Children in all year groups are required to wear school uniform. These items are available from our uniform supplier, Uniform4Kids in Temple Fortune:

Uniform4Kids, 1103-1105 Finchley Road, Temple Fortune, London NW11 6QB. Telephone 0208 209 0999, www.uniform4kids.com

Additional information containing the uniform list and fitting dates will be sent in a separate letter.

Due to the unpredictable nature of British weather, it is at the parents' discretion as to whether children will wear Winter or Summer uniform on their return to school after the summer break.

Please encourage your child to take pride in their appearance and be proud of their school by wearing their uniform correctly. Wearing a blazer is compulsory not only on non-PE days but also for whole-school assemblies, open mornings, performances, and trips.

All children are also required to have the following items for use at school:

- 1. Water/drinking bottle
- 2. Shoe bag with old trainers/wellingtons for outdoor outings (to remain in school at all times)
- 3. Long sleeved overall (for painting, artwork, etc.)

Please note: The school has spare uniform in case of any accidents

All items of clothing, including shoes, must be clearly labelled – this will enable us to reunite lost items with you.

WINTER UNIFORM	SUMMER UNIFORM
Flat, black school shoes	Navy/black sandals
Grey wool blazer with braiding emblem with school badge	
Grey V-neck jumper embroidered with school logo	Navy cardigan
Navy/Grey trousers	Grey shorts
Grey pinafore dress	Navy blue and white striped dress
White long sleeve shirt/open neck blouse	White short sleeve shirt
Grey tights	White/grey socks
School tie thick stripe	School tie thick stripe
Paint Apron, Royal Blue Nylon	Paint Apron, Royal Blue Nylon

## PE AND GAMES KIT

Children should come to school in their PE kits on Games and PE days.

#### PE KIT – ALL YEAR ROUND

NBH PE shirt or NBH polo shirt (sky blue) NBH shorts/skort NBH training pants NBH mid layer White training shoes White sports socks NBH Games socks Football/Hockey/Rugby

#### JEWELLERY AND HAIR

Only small stud earrings are permitted, but these should not be worn on PE days. No other jewellery is allowed except for medical or religious reasons. Please remove any nail varnish or transfer tattoos before the start of the school week. Hair below collars must be tied back

Dressing for the weather – The items above are the mandatory items that the pupils must have for each lesson. However, as we encounter all manner of conditions throughout the year, we actively encourage the pupils to bring additional layers for the cold months and sun protection for sunnier days. NBH base layers can be purchased from uniform4kids.com. We encourage all pupils to wrap up warm in the winter months with hats, gloves, scarves, and coats; they must be in line with the school's uniform policy. During the summer, pupils are welcome to wear a cap and should apply sun cream before coming to PE/Games lessons.

Footwear – Pupils must be able to change their own footwear for Games lessons. Please ensure your son/ daughter can tie their own shoelaces or purchase Velcro boots. We actively discourage sock- boots, as they prove very challenging for the pupils to take on and off.

House competitions in PE and Games – throughout the year we have three flagship days where your son/ daughter must wear their house shirt. In the first term we have NBH United Football Day, in the second term it is Cross Country Day and in the summer term we have Sports Day.

#### LOST PROPERTY

Items of school clothing should be labelled with the pupil's first and last name. This is particularly important for coats, jumpers/cardigans, and blazers. We encourage and teach pupils to take responsibility for their own belongings. However, if an item is lost, pupils/parents can check 'Lost Property': two large storage boxes in the Parkway Playground (front yard), one for named items and one for unnamed items.

# POLICY DOCUMENTS

School policy documents are available to download via the school website here: www.northbridgehouse.com/prep-school-regents-park/about-us/policies-2

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to telephone the school administration team on 020 7267 6266, option 5 or email: prep.reception@northbridgehouse.com

> We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to seeing you in September.



www.northbridgehouse.com