



MAYHILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

FAQs on returning to school

Sept 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first day back for all children at Mayhill is Monday 7th September.

The government produced guidance for schools for a full return of all children in September. We have tried to summarise the main points within this document in the context of Mayhill so that you and your child are reassured and hopefully, have clear answers to any of your queries. It's important to point out it is not a return to normal in September, but hopefully with this planning in place, it will be as smooth a return as possible. This set of guidance will be reviewed throughout the first few weeks back and we will notify you of any changes or updates should they be needed.

In the government guidelines, there are a set of measures schools **MUST** follow, grouped into 'Prevention' and 'Response to any infection'. They are:

Prevention'	Response to any infection'
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A requirement if your child or someone in your household has symptoms (or has been tested positive), to stay at home.2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual3. Catch-it, Bin-it, kill-it approach to respiratory hygiene4. Enhanced cleaning during the school day including frequently touched surfaces5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible6. Where necessary, wear appropriate PPE <p>Numbers 1-4 must be in place all the time.</p> <p>Number 5 must be considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Engage with NHS Test and Trace process8. Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst the school community9. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice <p>Numbers 7 – 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant</p>

Attendance

Does my child have to attend school?

Yes. School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including: parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly; schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence; the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct. Part-time options will not be available.

What time do they need to arrive and be pick-up from and where?

We will be running staggered arrivals and pick-ups, making use of the different ways into Mayhill.

September	y3	y4	y5	y6
Arrival - Siblings	8.30 – 8.35am (approx. 70 pupils from across all year groups). Both the top and main playground gates will be opened. Choose whichever is more convenient for a quick drop-off.			
Arrival	8.45 - 08.55 via main playground gate	8.35 - 08.45 via main playground gate	8.40 – 8.50 Top playground and in through hall doors	8.40 – 8.50 Fire Doors
Pick-up	3.05 Outside Y3 doors on main playground	3.15 Main playground	3.15 Top playground	3.15 Y6 fire doors*

Siblings are encouraged to arrive together at 8.30am. There is no separate sibling pick-up slot.

If another of your children needs picking up from Buryfields at the same time, we are happy to wait with your child so that you enough time to do both!

New year 3 parents in September: On their first morning, please accompany them onto the main playground between 9.00 – 9.10am.

What does the government say about the overall risks of returning?

'Returning to school is vital for your child's education and well-being. The time out already can affect not only current levels of learning, but their future ability to learn and this is even more so for 'disadvantaged' children. The risk to children themselves of becoming seriously ill from coronavirus is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school.'

Can my child attend if they are shielding?

For the majority, shielding ends on 1st August, and so many children will be able to return. Further advice is available [here](#). Children who have family members who might still be shielding can also return.

Who doesn't need to attend?

Any children who are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves **or** because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus. If your child has a recent or ongoing medical condition that you think will stop them from attending, please check this against the latest [government guidelines](#). We will then be happy to discuss this on a case by case basis. Attendance will not be penalised in these cases.

Will there be home learning available if they can't attend?

Yes. Where a pupil is unable to attend school, we will immediately offer them access to remote learning through Seesaw and will work with you and your family to ensure it is meeting their needs. This will only be available for children who meet the criteria for not being in school.

What if I simply don't want my child to return as I am anxious about their safety?

We totally understand that for some families, you may only just be coming out of your home and this will seem a huge step forward i.e. those who have been shielding or if your child is living with someone clinically vulnerable. There might also be a change over the summer that increases your concerns.

Firstly, please take time to read through our risk assessment in full – there are lots of protective measures in place to reduce and minimise the risk. If you are still concerned, do make contact with us – we are available on both INSET days (Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th Sept) to talk you through our safety measures.

Protective Measures in place at Mayhill

What are the main protective measures in place?

A full breakdown is available in our risk assessment. A summary of the protective measures include:

- A requirement that if your child is ill or has covid-like symptoms, **they stay at home**. This includes if your child has a high temperature.
- A requirement if someone in your household has symptoms (or has been tested positive), your child will stay at home.
- Regular hand washing/hand sanitiser throughout the day (on arrival into class, before and after eating – break and lunch, and before leaving school). Children are welcome to bring in their own hand cream if their hands are starting to get sore. Hand sanitiser is available, supplied by the school, in all classrooms and commonly used spaces i.e. the hall. Realistically, this will be a mix of handwashing and hand sanitiser – whichever is more convenient at the time.
- Catch-it, Bin-it, Kill-it approach to respiratory hygiene: tissues will be on children's desks, provided by the school.
- Enhanced cleaning during the school day including: wiping of tables at lunch, cleaning of any shared resources and all main touch points being cleaned at mid-day.
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- Reduced contact with children from outside their own class and only passing contact with those from outside their year group.

Public Health England is clear that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19).

If your child is unwell – please can parents be specific with the reason i.e. tummy ache so that know there are no covid-related symptoms.

Will there be social distancing?

Children will be encouraged to maintain distance between themselves and others, and this includes distance between the child and the teacher. We realise at infant schools it is likely there will be less emphasis on social distancing whilst at secondary, there will be more, so our level of expectation grows as the children get older. Year 3 children should not worry about needing to learn to social distance for September – we will gently and appropriately encourage this over time.

For older children i.e. Y5 and 6, we will be encouraging them to retain a 1m+ distancing when moving around the school and during free play as these are times when they are in contact with a greater number of children.

What happens if there is another lockdown?

All schools are being asked to ensure a plan is in place in case of a local lockdown so that their education can continue. With all children having used SeeSaw this academic year, we have decided to extend our use of it for at least another year so that this is ready to go at very short notice. A full contingency plan for remote education will be finalised by the end of September.

Will the school be cleaned more thoroughly?

Yes. Staff are used to helping out with cleaning of all main touch points during lunch time and the children will be asked to clean their tables with a spray and paper towel both in class and after eating in the hall. Any resources or shared equipment is cleaned before being passed on and where possible, we have set up systems that reduce the need for sharing. After school, our cleaning team are very well equipped to ensure all classrooms and common areas are thoroughly cleaned before children return the next day.

Toilets will continue to be shared as they normally would be but children are asked to wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet to reduce any risk of transmission.

Why are staff not wearing masks when adults are required to do so in public?

The main difference between public spaces and a school are the number of control measures that can be put in place. In a school we have consistent groupings, the same staff, thorough washing of hands, additional cleaning requirements etc and so the government advice, at least for now, continues to be that staff or children are not expected to wear masks in school.

Should a case of coronavirus be suspected and discovered

What happens if someone has symptoms?

Click [here](#) for full advice. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they will be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance on the government website. This includes members of staff. They must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If a child is awaiting collection, we will move them to the Medical Room so that they can be isolated from the others in their class. For these reasons, PPE is unlikely to be needed and will only be used when the adult cannot remain 2m away.

After taking a test, one of two things will happen:

If your child or member of staff tests negative, and if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. [Please send in confirmation of the negative test result.](#) They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

If your child or member of staff tests positive, they should follow the [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

If someone in a teacher’s house tests positive, as per above they will need to isolate for 14 days. Mayhill will always contact the local Health Protection Team should any child, parent or staff test positive and work with them to follow all recommended advice.

Does a whole class get sent home?

We will be asked to identify and send home anyone who has been in **close contact** with that person. As defined by the government, close contact means:

- face to face contact with an infected individual for any [length of time](#), i.e. [within 1 metre](#), including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for [more than 15 minutes](#)) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person (i.e. not just family members but anyone your child has been in the car with. This is important as parents will need to remember who has been in their car so they can inform the school and local public authority should your child or a friend’s child develop symptoms.)

The Health Protection Team will lead the advice on who must be sent home. Note, schools are not permitted to share the names or details of people with coronavirus unless essential to the protection of others.

Life at Mayhill in September

How will children be organised in school?

The vast majority of the time, children will operate in their class bubble. This means they will not have joint lessons, shared assemblies, or house colour days with children from across the school. As far as possible, children will have forward facing desks (seeing the board restricts this in some cases), be sat next to each other and have their own resources. Children will still work collaboratively in pairs and small groups but if possible, we will utilise the outdoor and large indoor spaces to allow for more room.

However, children will be allowed to play at break and lunch within a year group bubble. The reason for this is that:

- we have children of an age where they can be encouraged to maintain distance AND contact with other groups is reduced as much as possible.
- more often, there is not prolonged contact of up to 15 minutes at lunchtime as they are running around, playing games

There will be systems in place for children to play only in class bubbles should we decide this is necessary. As the government guidelines state, there will be other times that children will need to mix across bubbles, for example, siblings will be in their home class and not together and wrap around care will bring different aged children together.

As the government guidelines state, all teachers and staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. However, we are timetabling staff in such a way that helps minimise the number of classes our PPA teachers need to cover. Should we need to, we will continue to request the support of supply teachers, but we will be informed of their previous school placements so that we can inform them should any need arise.

Will classes get extra support to help children catch up?

It's important to reassure parents that there is a curriculum plan in place to support all children to catch-up and that we are hoping to achieve this over an academic year. Parents also have a large role to play in helping your child remember and make links in their learning and we will be helping you to do this in the new term.

But of course, some children will take longer. Currently we know there will be some government funding arriving in the next academic year that schools can use to appoint staff to run catch-up sessions, interventions and 1-1 tutoring for the most in need. However, we are waiting to find out when this money will arrive and whether there are any statutory expectations on how we use it. At Mayhill, we will be continually reflecting on where the need is greatest so that we can decide where best to deploy our teaching assistants and HLTAs. The majority of support staff will work within their year group, supporting children from both classes under the guidance of the class teacher. We will seek to appoint additional staff in the autumn term and as soon as we are allowed, will welcome back parent helpers.

How can I easily communicate with my child's class teacher or the school office?

Please write your child's teacher a note if there is a small message that needs passing this on. Your child can hand this to their teacher and if need be, they will feed back to you at the end of the day. Teachers are available at the end of each day for a face-to-face chat for anything more urgent.

If you would like a longer discussion with your child's teacher, please contact the school office and they will inform them and ask them to give you a call. In-school parental meetings will be reduced to only the most necessary.

Our office area is not the most Covid-19 friendly space, so to speak with the office, please phone wherever possible. They will then advise you on the best way of taking your query forward. However, parents are welcome to ring the buzzer for any other query and a member of the office will come to talk to you.

How will break / lunchtime work?

Break times will be staggered but children will be able to play with friends from across their year group.

Lunchtimes will also need to look different to reduce the number of children either in the hall or the playground. This is probably one of the biggest changes to school life as children will not be allowed to mix with children from other year groups.

If your child has a packed lunch, they will be asked to eat in class. If they are having a school dinner, they will be eating in the hall before then returning to class until such time the whole class can go out onto the playground. We are currently providing 25 minutes for this eating time but we might need to review it! During the summer term this system has worked well and been well received as long as their teacher puts something interesting on to watch on their interactive whiteboard! A provisional timetable for September is as follows:

September break & lunch	y3	y4	y5	y6
Break	10.20 – 10.35 On main playground	10.20 – 10.35 Chill out area and Top playground	10.40 – 10.55 On bottom playground	10.40 – 10.55 Chill out area and Top playground
Lunch	12.00 – 12.25 Eat 12.25 – 12.50 Play 12.50 – 12.55 Transition Chill out area and Top playground	12.10 – 12.35 Eat 12.35 – 1.00 Play 1.00 – 1.05 Transition On main playground	12.25 – 12.50 Eat 12.50 – 1.15 Play 1.15 – 1.20 Transition Chill out area and Top playground	12.35 – 1.00 Eat 1.00 – 1.25 Play 1.25 – 1.30 Transition On main playground

Snack: For some, the morning may seem so much longer as both break and lunch time slots are later than. Please provide your child with a wholesome snack that will help keep the energy levels high throughout the morning. Thank you!

Parents of Year 3 children:- In September, Year 3 will have priority access to Chill Out club at lunchtime.

We often find our youngest children take the longest time to eat! No one will be denied the chance to eat all of their lunch, but if you know your child is a grazer, please work on the 25 minutes time allowance over the summer as this will help us (and them) keep to our timings. This might mean giving more thought to what you provide them so that if they have a packed lunch.

What will children be learning in school?

The first week back has been set aside for supporting transition, welcoming back half of the school, establishing routines and starting to build up their learning habits again. For some it will feel really tiring and with lots of children in a new class, time will be given to creating that sense of belonging and making new friends. Even for those who have been in school, reverting back to larger classes will take a little getting used to.

From the second week onwards, teachers will be implementing a catch-up curriculum, this is in collaboration with Hampshire Local Authority who have provided all schools with guidance. Our aim is that by the end of the academic year all children will have caught up from any missed learning and be on track with this year's expectations. Indeed, for some, this may be possible by the end of the autumn term. For a small number, this may take more than a year. In September, we will provide you with all the information on how this will look, but in summary:

- Some children may not have read at all since March, so we will plan time to help them enjoy stories, build up their stamina (how long they can read for independently) and revisit or teach phonic skills.
- All children are likely to have written less at home than they normally would in school. We will be giving them lots of short and engaging writing opportunities that allow us to assess what they have remembered, and what knowledge, understanding or skills have been forgotten.
- In Maths, there will be focus initially on maths fluency (number bonds, times tables, links between number facts). All year groups will take the time needed to revisiting previous year's objectives before moving the class on to new learning.
- For those children who have maintained or improved their reading, writing and maths, we are confident your child will be challenged and supported in class through differentiated tasks, texts and approaches.

Booster sessions, smaller group work, alternative use of staff including Teaching Assistants and HLTAs will all be considered to support your child in being back on track academically by the end of the year.

How will the school support mental health for children who return?

We will be asking all parents who are sending their child back after the summer holidays to complete a short survey that will guide us in understanding the experiences and reaction your child has had to the pandemic. We will then plan our PSHE curriculum around this, providing either 1-1 time or facilitating small group discussions.

As there will be new school routines in place, the teachers will help them to learn about the new expectations and how they can take a sense of ownership over them. We think this responsibility is important in helping them understand how we all play our part in helping keep others safe.

Our ELSA, Christine Hicks, will also be in school to meet with those children she has previously supported, as well as provide guidance or opportunities to discuss worries and concerns with any child.

What do I need to know for their first day back, do they need uniform?

All children will be required to wear normal school uniform Monday - Friday, including a school PE kit which should be left in school all week. They will also need:

- Their own pencil case: pencils, sharpener, rubber, ruler (cm/mm), pen (if applicable), scissors and glue stick. We can provide them with their own bag of resources if they do not have this. Please keep this pencil case small so it doesn't act as a distraction!
- Snack – the mornings will feel longer!
- Own water bottle to avoid children putting their mouths around a water fountain.
- Rucksacks/school bags are allowed. (Please NO handbags!)

They should come into school at their designated time and in the right entrance.

Will there still be curriculum tests this year?

Yes. The DfE have confirmed that currently their plan is for all children in year 4 to take the multiplication time's tables test and all children in year 6 to take SATs. Should circumstances over the winter change, there may be a change in advice.

Year groups who missed tests last year will not need to sit them this year.

How will Mayhill support an organised approach to arriving and pick-up with so many children and families?

Both Buryfields and Mayhill are working together to enable staggered start and end times of the school day. Different measures in place include:

- Use of different entrances/exits for arrival/pick-up for different year groups
- Changing the finishing time of the school day to reduce the pressure of all children leaving at the same time.

However, we need your support to make this work. This includes:

- Doing your very best to arrive within the right time slot.
- If walking from the High Street, please use Stoney Alley to walk to the school and then Kings Street / Alley by Odiham Card Shop to return back to your car
- Walking or cycling if possible
- Asking older children e.g. in Year 6, to meet you away from their exit so as to reduce the number of parents waiting.

- Not gathering at or near the school entrances after dropping off for a chat as more parents will be arriving and will need the area kept clear.

Will SCL be available for childcare either side of the school day?

Yes. Children from both Buryfields and Mayhill will be attending and they will make use of the same room as well as the hall which will be available each day after school. It is likely children will be asked to remain in key stage bubbles (i.e. infants and juniors). We will share details on how to sign up and a copy of their risk assessment as soon as we have them.

Will clubs and trips be happening?

For the first half term there will be no onsite clubs at Mayhill. This is so we can evaluate all of our systems and focus on high quality daily provision in school time. Currently, we are considering reintroducing externally run clubs from October half term and teacher led clubs from January, but this will be reviewed in the new term.

For those children participating in French at home remotely, we very much hope this will continue, albeit after school.

Day trips have been approved to go ahead, but they will need to be done in line with protective measures already in place in school (bubbles, use of outdoors, hand washing etc). Currently the advice is against overnight UK trips (i.e. Y5/6 residential) but we are monitoring this daily and will be informed by Hampshire Outdoor Team if they are unable to go ahead. Until such time, we would recommend payments being made as the advice is being constantly reviewed.

SEN Provision

If my child has an EHC Plan, will 1:1 support be available?

Yes, school will ensure the appropriate support is available for all pupils with SEND. Under the guidance of their class teacher, our Learning Support Assistants will be deployed to work with those pupils who need 1:1 support and to support catch up provision and targeted interventions. Pupils will be supported to maintain social distancing and not to touch staff or peers. We know that this is not always possible when supporting complex needs so when closer contact is required staff will avoid face to face contact and minimise time spent within 1 metre of a pupil.

Will external agencies be visiting school?

Where it is necessary to welcome visitors to the school those individuals will be expected to comply with the schools arrangements for managing and minimalising risk, including taking particular care to maintain social distancing.

Provision for children who have SEND has in many cases been disrupted during school closure and this may have led to an additional impact on their behaviour. We will work with all families and support networks to aid a smooth return to school. We are still waiting to hear from Hampshire Educational Psychology Services

as to whether they will be visiting schools or continuing to work remotely in the Autumn Term. Other services such as Primary Behaviour are likely to be very much in demand, but we will support you in accessing all relevant agencies.

My child is on the SEN register and I believe they have dropped further behind their peers. How will you support them to catch up?

For all SEN pupils, assessments will continue to be used to identify gaps in learning and to make observations in identifying any specific learning needs. We are aware that home schooling may have been particularly challenging for some of these pupils.

Catch up support and targeted interventions will be planned to aim for substantial progress by the end of the academic year. This will be monitored continuously and adapted as necessary.

The whole school curriculum is also being modified so teaching time can address significant gaps in pupil's knowledge, for example, all subjects will contribute to filling the gaps in core knowledge such as reading.

I am worried that my child will not be able to concentrate for a whole school day?

Activities such as daily mile and movement breaks will be used to support pupils who need a break from learning to refocus on their tasks. We also recognise that some pupils with SEND may not have been able to access remote home learning without adult support, and so we will work pupils to engage them back into learning and to develop learning skills such as independence.

My child is very anxious about coming back to school. How will you support them?

We are very aware that children and families will be experiencing a variety of emotions in responses to the coronavirus outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. It is important to contextualise these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. Some may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be keen and ready to return to school.

The nature of returning to school allows social interaction with peers and teachers which will benefit their well-being. We will be offering increased pastoral care via our ELSA, support staff team and teachers to support all pupils with this process. Your child may need support to rebuild friendships and social engagement; address their own responses to issues linked to COVID-19; or support with approaches to improve their mental well-being.

All individuals will have focussed pastoral support where issues are identified, drawing on external support where necessary and possible. This will all be discussed and addressed collaboratively with parents.