



# MAYHILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Bury  
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Headteacher: **Thomas May**

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

## **Transfer to Junior School - September 2021**

Despite our very best plans, I am sure you are now aware that we are unable to go ahead with the Open Morning tours here at Mayhill. Whilst it is right that we reduce the number of adults in school and do everything we can to keep our school safe and clean, I am also acutely aware of the importance of 'getting a feel' for a school before committing to sending your child here. So often, it is by talking to staff, seeing the children in action and spending time in a school that you know if what you are told is likely to be true! With this in mind, a few important updates.

Firstly, as soon as we can, we will contact you to let you know that tours are once again available. Whilst this may not be before the deadline in January, I am optimistic it will be well before the end of Year 2 and in plenty of time to get ready for any transition. Mayhill and Buryfields have always worked very closely and each year we see approximately 95% of children from Buryfields transition to Mayhill.

To help have a better insight about life at Mayhill, I have attached a FAQ to this letter which gives some brief answers to some common questions. We are also working on developing a short virtual tour from myself and the teachers here that gives you a better view into the kind of school day your child would experience. It's not the same as coming in, but hopefully it will help and should be with you well before the deadline for applications in January. If you haven't seen it yet, there is a dedicated page on our [website](#) with further information specifically for your year group and a tour of the school led by last year's school council.

There are also other ways to learn about the quality of education on offer at Mayhill. In December last year, [OFSTED](#) visited Mayhill and rightly praised the quality of teaching and learning on offer. The reports rarely tell the full story of a school, but hopefully as you look through our website you will see evidence of the range of learning opportunities which take place each year.

If, after all of this, you have further questions and would welcome a personal conversation with myself, or Mrs Davies our Inclusion Leader (for SEN queries), please don't hesitate in calling our school office. We are very proud of the way Mayhill continues to flourish and feel it is important to find a way to share this with you – as safely as we can.

I hope that you will select Mayhill as the school for your child, and look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Tom May**  
Headteacher



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## **Frequently Asked Questions when transitioning to Mayhill**

### **How many classes will there be?**

With 68 children currently in Year 2 at Buryfields, this depends entirely on the number of applications, including those from other schools. Village schools often have very different numbers applying from one year to the next. We prioritise a single aged class structure throughout their four years here, which can mean we run classes that vary in size from 22 - 35. Class size cannot exceed 35 and should applications go beyond 70, it is more than likely we would be asked by the Local Authority to run three classes. We will not know for definite how many classes we are running until after Easter 2021.

Should we be required to run three classes in Year 3 next year, this is then reviewed annually as it remains dependent on the numbers of children on roll.

### **Do you have children joining from other schools?**

Yes, all the time. Generally we have three or four children join Year 3 from schools other than Buryfields (this year we had three) but as many of you will know, there can often be children joining or leaving mid-year due to RAF postings or natural movement between schools. We take particular pride in being able to help children forge new friendships and feel settled when joining Mayhill as we know this can be an anxious time for children and parents.

### **Do you mix the classes every year?**

No. However, it is likely that once during the four years, they will be mixed so that children can make new friendships and we maintain a balance of abilities, gender etc.

### **Are there teaching assistants with each class?**

In Year 3, we make sure each teacher is supported with a member of our support team. Naturally as they get older, their independence grows and we start to direct the time of our teaching assistants to the specific needs of the children. If classes are larger, we will always seek to prioritise more support.

### **Are children put into sets (according to ability)?**

In most cases, the answer is no and never in year 3. When children join Mayhill, we feel it is hugely important to have one class teacher who they get to know really well and develop that sense of belonging. In the final year of Mayhill, and depending on the size of year group and additional staffing available, it may be a decision is made to split two classes into three for English or Maths, at which point ability setting might be considered.

### **How do we communicate with the class teacher if you can't drop off at their class door?**

Teachers are available at the end of every day and come onto the playground to enable those quick conversations to take place. In the morning, if there is an urgent message to pass on that can't be jotted on a note, teachers can meet parents. Phone calls, reading records, home-school books etc all help make sure communication is clear and regular.