



MAYHILL JUNIOR SCHOOL

FAQs on returning to school

March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first day back for all children at Mayhill is Monday 8th March 2021.

This guidance has been adapted from the information you will have received in readiness for the Autumn term 2020. **We have highlighted the changes from the Autumn term in red.**

It's important to point out it is not a return to normal in March, 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 spring term and there are likely to be some relaxations of the measures after Easter.

In the government guidelines, there are a set of controls 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. Wear face coverings if you cannot refrain from close contact4. Catch-it, Bin-it, kill-it approach to respiratory hygiene5. Enhanced cleaning during the school day including frequently touched surfaces6. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible7. Where necessary, wear appropriate PPE <p>Numbers 1-5 must be in place all the time.</p> <p>Number 6 must be considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Engage with NHS Test and Trace process9. Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst the school community10. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice <p>Numbers 8 – 10 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 8th March. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply. Part-time options will not be available.

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

This will be the same as the Autumn term but with a few minor tweaks.

September	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Arrival - Siblings	8.30 – 8.35am (approx. 70 pupils from across all year groups). Only the main front entrance will be opened. The rear gate will be opened at 8.40am for year 5.			
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 your children miss the sibling slot, they should wait until their own year group slot. Please do not send them in together through the main playground amongst all of the other children.**

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!

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, as long as they meet the government's eligibility for not attending school. 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.

If parents opt to keep their child off from school and do not meet the criteria, teachers will not be setting and providing work to be done at home.

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

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 so we can talk this through further.

Protective Measures in place at Mayhill

Face coverings

For the remainder of the spring term, please can adults entering inside the school playground wear face coverings. This change is temporary whilst all children return from a third lockdown and will help add another layer of control to help prevent any cases being transmitted. It will be reviewed at Easter and should the government's roadmap continue, will be removed for the summer term.

If you have an older child and are comfortable doing so, we would ask that you consider meeting them outside of the school grounds.

Social distancing and bubbles

For the remainder of the spring term, children will be in class bubbles and not year group bubbles. It is likely they will return to year group bubbles after Easter. This means at lunchtime, they will be asked to play with children from their own class only, but they will still be able to chat with those from other classes – albeit from 2m.

In class, there are no changes to the Autumn term and we have made every effort to not have staff mixing between bubbles.

Other 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
- All staff take twice weekly lateral flow device tests.
- Reduced contact with children from outside their own class and only passing contact with those from outside their year group.

If your child is unwell on any day, when reporting the absence, please can parents be specific with the reason i.e. tummy ache so that we know there are no covid-related symptoms.

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 in school 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 or confirmed

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 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 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. An easy to read guide is available [here](#).

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. 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, please let the school know immediately.

You should follow the [‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection’](#) and must continue to self-isolate for 10 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 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill or tested positive. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

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:

- anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19
- anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:
 - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
 - been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
 - travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

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?

Children will operate in their class bubble. This means they will not have joint lessons or other themed 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.

As the government guidelines state, there will be a small number of 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.

Will classes get extra support to help children catch up?

We have provided more information on our approach to ‘catch-up’ on our school website [here](#).

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

We are currently asking parents not to enter the school building without prior permission. However, we absolutely want to be communicating regularly with you in the following ways.

- a) 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.

- b) 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.

As our office area is not the most Covid-19 friendly space, 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?

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:

	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	12.10 – 12.35 Eat 12.35 – 1.00 Play 1.00 – 1.05 Transition	12.25 – 12.50 Eat 12.50 – 1.15 Play 1.15 – 1.20 Transition	12.35 – 1.00 Eat 1.00 – 1.25 Play 1.25 – 1.30 Transition
	Chill out area and Top playground	On main playground	Chill out area and Top playground	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 **HEALTHY** nut-free snack that will help keep the energy levels high throughout the morning. Thank you!

What will children be learning in school?

Given the disruptions to last year, we will start by revisiting prior learning so they can practice applying it consistently, confidently, independently and in a variety of ways. This will be really important for pupils who have missed out on adult support at home whilst also giving time for other children to demonstrate and consolidate their learning. Throughout this time, we will be quietly assessing your child so that we can plan for any obvious gaps in their learning after Easter.

In the summer term, our focus will be on supporting your child to show security and understanding on what we call the 'most essential objectives' from this academic year. Children will complete end of year assessments towards the end of the academic year so that we can review the strengths and gaps across each child and across the class and of course we will share this information with you at parents' evening and in their end of year report.

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.

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 lockdown 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?

The DfE have confirmed that SATs will not be taking place this year. However, children will complete end of year assessments towards the end of the academic year so that we can review the strengths and gaps across each child and across the class and of course we will share this information with you at parents' evening and in their end of year report.

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).

Will clubs and trips be happening?

Clubs will hopefully start again after Easter.

We hope day trips will go ahead in the summer term, but they will need to be done in line with protective measures already in place in school (bubbles, use of outdoors, hand washing etc).

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.

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 Summer 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.