

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Mayfield Messenger since lockdown!

Following the Prime Minister's announcement around the aspiration to "reopen" schools, our understanding is that the final decision will be taken by Mr. Johnson on 28th May and that this will be communicated to all shortly afterwards. We therefore continue to work on the assumption that we will be able to confirm final arrangements for the 1st June by the 29th May.

As previously shared, our approach will be to run a "bubble school", consisting of a number of "class bubbles" which learn and socialise together. Initially, our proposal is that we open as follows:

Year 1 every Monday and Tuesday from 1st June between 9:00am and 3:00pm;

Year R every Thursday and Friday from 4th June between 9:00am and 3:00pm;

Year 10 for two sessions per week from 8th June.

Pupils will be taught in groups of up to 10 and these "bubble classes" will be consistent throughout the Summer Term. This will mean our staff are better able to embed the four rules of hygiene with every pupil. As a reminder, these are:

- maintain social distancing;
- regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with hot water and soap;
- avoid touching your face;
- always use a tissue if you sneeze and "bin it" straight away before washing your hands.

I am very grateful to our Medical, Administration and Site Teams that have been undertaking significant preparatory work to ensure our facilities and classrooms are ready for "bubble school":

- Reconfiguring classrooms and offices to ensure that strict social distancing can be maintained;
- Installing Perspex screens in key locations;
- Clearing corridors and classrooms to reduce the risk of infection;
- Preparing individual equipment packs for each child;
- Preparing a cleaning kit for each classroom;
- Installing additional hand sanitiser stations around the school;
- Preparing additional signage to go up around the school to reinforce key messages;
- Agreeing a safe capacity for each office and workspace so that social distancing can be maintained;
- Carrying out legionella testing where parts of the school have not been used;
- Ensuring there are sufficient supplies of PPE for the occasions when this is required.

We have also been working with our cleaning contractor (NVIRO) to develop an enhanced cleaning schedule. Each of the classrooms where "bubble classes" are sited are currently undergoing a deep clean in readiness for the potential reopening and additional cleaners will be on site daily from 1st June to ensure that regular cleaning of rooms and surfaces takes place throughout the day.

I know that with this new way of working, our parents, carers and pupils will have many, many questions. Last week, I shared with you a new email address to send your questions to:

bubble@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

We have had several emails and we produced some “frequently asked questions”, the first set of which you can find at the end of this letter. If we have not covered a question that you have, then please do send it to us. We will produce another set of “FAQs” for the next edition of the Mayfield Messenger on 29th May.

One thing that I would ask every parent or carer to do for children in Years R and 1 is to begin to explain to your child:

- “bubble” school is not like normal school;
- They can only socialise with their friends in the “class bubble”;
- They will have their own space, stationary and outdoor area;
- They will be asked to wash their hands more often and for up to 20 seconds.

In line with Government Guidance, children who are:

- showing symptoms of COVID 19 (new persistent cough and/or high temperature);
- classed as “clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions”.

Will not be able to access this provision. If you believe your child falls into the above, or requires additional support in their “class bubble”, please use the email address above.

As a consequence of the pandemic, we have had to undertake a complete review of the Summer Term calendar of events. Each has either been cancelled, postponed or being run differently. There are a few key events or changes I would like to draw your attention to:

Year 11 Prom

This has been postponed until later in the Autumn Term. We are hopeful that should the conditions allow, we may be able to run an enhanced event for current Year 11 at the Marriot Hotel. We will let you know in September when and how we are intending to deliver this important rite of passage.

Transition events

As Portsmouth’s most oversubscribed school, we will once again be welcoming almost 300 new children to our Mayfield family in September. We will not be able to run our usual two week transition for Year 6. However, we are hoping to run smaller events in July whilst still respecting our golden rules of hygiene. We will be writing to families in Year R, 3 and 6 to explain our plans.

New Academic Year

Our community will be aware that Mayfield is unique in that we run our academic year from June rather than, as most schools do, from September. This ensures that the final weeks of the Summer Term are focussed and pupils get to know their new teachers before the Summer Holiday. Unfortunately, it makes no sense to do this for 2020 and so we will run our new academic year from September for this year only. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that pupils who were in Year 10 in March will remain in Year 10 and can access our “bubble school”.

Uniform

We have taken the decision to relax the rules around wearing a blazer for the rest of the Summer Term. Therefore between 1st June and 21st July 2020 a “hot weather protocol” will be in place. We hope that this makes washing clothes a little easier in this current climate.

Finally, we are mindful that several families’ financial circumstances will have changed due to the current pandemic and that they may now be eligible for a shopping voucher. If you believe your circumstances have changed then please complete an application form on the Portsmouth City Council website by following this link:

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/schools-learning-and-childcare/schools/school-meals>

I would like to end this letter by thanking you for your ongoing support for the school and sincerely hope you and your wider family are in good health and able to have some “down time” over the half term break. Please remember that “key worker school” remains open throughout the holiday including the Bank Holiday.

Yours sincerely,

David Jeapes

Headteacher

FAQs – Bubble School – Parents and Pupils

1. Why are children being taught in “bubbles”?

The scientific evidence suggests that the most effective way to stop the spread of the COVID 19 virus is for people to:

- maintain social distancing;
- regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with hot water and soap;
- avoid touching your face;
- always use a tissue if you sneeze and “bin it” straight away before washing your hands.

It will be much easier for our staff to support your child in these if they are in small and consistent groups. Also, by only having contact with a small group of children, the risk to our pupils and staff is significantly reduced.

2. Who will teach my child?

For Years R and 1, your child is very unlikely to have their current teacher. “Class bubbles” will be run by qualified teachers or Primary Section Teaching Assistants. However, all children in existing classes will be allocated to “class bubbles” within their current class and not outside. Therefore, they are very likely to have a friend or two in their “bubble”. All of the planning for the lessons will be undertaken by an experienced and qualified teacher and additional planning time has been set aside to ensure that staff can prepare thoroughly.

For Year 10, your child will be taught by an English, mathematics or science specialist. Again, they are unlikely to have their current teacher.

3. How will you keep my child safe?

By operating in small “class bubbles” we are in a much better position to encourage children to follow the golden rules of hygiene:

- maintain social distancing;
- regularly and thoroughly washing your hands with hot water and soap;
- avoid touching your face;
- always use a tissue if you sneeze and “bin it” straight away before washing your hands.

However, we accept that, particularly, for our youngest children, we cannot guarantee that they will stay 2m apart, particularly during play times. We will do our best, but please do help us by sensitively explaining to your child that keeping in their bubble helps them and all of their friends to stay safe. We have also amended our current behaviour policy to focus on some of the potential behaviour challenges that the current pandemic poses. You can view the amended behaviour policy on our website.

The experience of other countries that have opened schools to a wider group of pupils is that the children very quickly adapt to the new routines.

4. Does my child have to attend “bubble” school?

We strongly encourage you to send your child, if they are eligible, to “key worker school” or “bubble school”. However, there will be no sanction against not attending. We will continue to set home learning tasks for children in “bubble school” which will build upon the work they do in their “bubble class”.

5. I am a key worker and the times of “bubble” school do not suit me. What should I do?

If you are eligible for “key worker school” and your child is in Year R, 1 and 10 then you must decide which provision you want your child to attend, but they cannot attend both and cannot swap in and out. Currently, “key worker school” runs every day until 4:30pm. There is a limit to the number of children we can accommodate in “key worker school” and if demand outstrips supply, we may have to limit numbers on any day with priority given to “frontline” workers and our most vulnerable children.

6. My child has additional support in class, will they still get this?

The maximum number of children in a “class bubble” will be 10. That means, their teachers can provide more support. If your child has an EHCP or is being considered for an EHCP we will also be running an SEN school. Our SEN team will be in touch with you directly about accessing this provision. Alternatively, email AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk if you wish to discuss this further.

7. What days is bubble school open?

Initially, we are running “bubble school” on two days a week as shown:

Year 1 every Monday and Tuesday from 1st June between 9:00am and 3:00pm;
Year R every Thursday and Friday from 4th June between 9:00am and 3:00pm;

Year 10 two sessions a week (one morning and one afternoon) from 8th June as per published timetable;

We hope to be able to increase the number of days we operate “bubble school” as the Summer Term progresses. However, we feel that by opening gradually, we are better able to embed important routines and behaviours with all of our pupils. We are also mindful that many children may feel anxious and we wish to make sure that we have sufficiently small groups and dedicated staff on hand to comfort and support them.

8. When and where do I have to drop my child off and pick them up for bubble school?

In order to establish our hygiene routines and provide comfort and support to every child, we will need a phased introduction to “bubble school” as follows:

Year 1 every Monday and Tuesday from 1st June between 9:00am and 3:00pm;

Year R every Thursday and Friday from 4th June between 9:00am and 3:00pm;

Year 10 will start in the week beginning 8th June for two sessions- one morning (starting at 9:00am so pupils should arrive at 8:50am- not earlier) and one afternoon (starting at 12:30pm so pupils should arrive at 12:20pm- not earlier). For Year 10 only, during the week beginning 1st June, Pupils will be emailed, and parents will be sent a text confirming the times they should attend.

Year 1 children should be dropped off between 8:30am and 9:00am. A staff member will meet you at the Junior Gate on Mayfield Road (nearest the new build) and explain the arrival procedure for dropping off and picking up. However, in summary:

- Only one adult will be allowed on to the school site to drop off or pick up a child;
- We will apply anti-bacterial lotion to the children's hands as they come into the building;
- A “one way” system will be in place to stop overcrowding;
- The person dropping off or picking up should be:

Over the age of 16 and not on the roll of a school;

Be aware of the child's unique password;

Spend as little time on the site as possible – we are sorry but we cannot stop for a chat – if you have any questions then please email:

bubble@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Year R children should be dropped off between 8:30am and 9:00am. A staff member will meet you at the Infant Section Gate on Mayfield Road and explain the above procedure.

Year 10 pupils should arrive via the Senior Section entrance on Hewitt Road at the following times:

Morning sessions pupils should arrive from 8:50am - not earlier

Afternoon sessions pupils should arrive from 12:20pm - not earlier

For Year R and 1, “bubble school” finishes at 3:00pm and children should be collected by 3:30pm at the very latest from the drop off areas outlined above. We will be limiting the number of people on site and therefore please leave extra time for dropping off and picking up.

9. I have more than one child at Mayfield, can they all attend “bubble” school?

If children are eligible for “key worker school” or “bubble school” then “yes”. If not, then we are very sorry, but we cannot accommodate children outside of these provisions. As an example:

If you have a child in Year 1 and 4, then we can, at the moment, only allow the younger child into “bubble school”.

If you are a “key worker” and have children in Year 2 and 5, then both can come to “key worker school”.

10. What will my child learn in “bubble” school?

For children in Year R and 1, a qualified teacher will plan all lessons and there will be a strong focus on Reading, Writing and developing children’s social skills. The first few lessons will be about establishing the following golden rules of hygiene:

- maintain social distancing;
- regularly and thoroughly washing your hands with hot water and soap;
- avoid touching your face;
- always use a tissue if you sneeze and “bin it” straight away before washing your hands.

A significant portion of the day will be spent outdoors, so please make sure your child is sent in with a coat if the weather isn’t good. We will also set home learning tasks for the days your child is not in “bubble school”. These will build upon the work they have done.

For pupils in Year 10, we will run a carousel of English, mathematics and Science according to a published timetable.

11. Can I choose which “bubble” my child is placed in?

“No”, sorry. Our staff will allocate children to “bubbles”. For children in Year R and 1, we will ensure that there is an appropriate mix of child to ensure that we can embed our golden rules of hygiene and new ways of working. However, all children in existing classes will be allocated to “class bubbles” within their current class and not outside. Therefore, they are very likely to have a friend or two in their “bubble”.

For Year 10, we have formed groups and these will be published by 5th June along with your child’s timetable.

12. If I decide not to send my child to “bubble” school, will I lose my place at Mayfield?

“No”. We strongly encourage you to send your child to “bubble school”. However, we understand some families may not wish to use this provision. No family will be sanctioned for not sending their child in. If your child is “clinically extremely vulnerable” or living in a household with a person who is “clinically extremely vulnerable” then they will be supported directly by our SEN team.

13. How do I sign up my child for “bubble school”?

We are encouraging every child in Year R, 1 and 10 to access “bubble school”. However, we appreciate that some families may not be in a position to send their child in at the moment and may wish to join the “bubble school” later in June/July. Therefore, to aid our planning we are asking parents of pupils in Year R and 1 only to sign up for “bubble school” in blocks of time using Mayfield’s online booking system. This is the same system you have used to book Primary extracurricular clubs. Initially, we are opening “bubble school” as follows:

Year 1 every Monday and Tuesday from 1st June between 9:00am and 3:00pm;
Year R every Thursday and Friday from 4th June between 9:00am and 3:00pm;

Sign up for “bubble school” will run in the following blocks:

Block 5 from Monday 1st June to Friday 12th June;
Block 6 from Monday 15th June to Friday 26th June;
Block 7 from Monday 29th June to Friday 10th July;
Block 8 from Monday 13th July to Tuesday 21st July.

Once you have signed up your child for a block, then we expect them to attend every session unless they become ill. The closing date and time for signing up for each block is as follows, 6:00pm on:

Deadline for signing up for Block 5 is Wednesday 27th May;
Deadline for signing up for Block 6 is Wednesday 10th June;
Deadline for signing up for Block 7 is Wednesday 24th June;
Deadline for signing up for Block 8 is Wednesday 8th July.

The booking system for Year R and 1 to sign up for “bubble school” blocks will open on Sunday 24th May at 9:00am.

For pupils in Year 10, we will contact you w/b 1st June to share your personalised timetable.

14. I have children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 or 9. When can they go back to school?

Our understanding of the Government’s position is that pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will not be returning to school until September. The Government has also stated that:

We hope that all primary school children can come back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, although this will be kept under review. Reducing the risks for children and staff is our utmost priority.

We await final confirmation from the Government if they believe it is now safe to open the school to a wider range of pupils. As soon as this is clarified we will be in contact via the Mayfield Messenger, website and social media channels. We are committed to continue to provide support for children not able to access on site provision which is why we can only offer “bubble school” on a part time basis.

15. My child has a health issue. Do I need to still send them to school?

The Government has published the following definition for “clinically extremely vulnerable” people:

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
 - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary (COPD).
4. People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

If your child meets any of the above criteria, then they should not come to school and must be “shielded”. We will offer direct support to any family for whom this is relevant. Please let us know by emailing Mrs. Erika Anders on the address below to alert us:

AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Equally, if any family member needs to be “shielded”, your child should not come to school and again, please contact Mrs. Anders and we will support you directly.

16. Will my child or their teacher need Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as a mask?

“No”, this is not normally recommended. The Government’s Guidance around PPE for children and staff is as follows:

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way;
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

17. What equipment do I need to send in?

All children attending “bubble school” will be required to wear the school uniform. We have a selection of pre-loved uniform items which can be purchased from the school shop. This will be open every day that “bubble school” is open and can be accessed via the school’s Main Reception between 3:00pm and 4:00pm.

Children in Years R and 1 will need their PE bag which will be sent home at the end of each block for washing. Otherwise, your child will have their own equipment such as a pen and pencils provided by the school and a tray to keep them in.

Pupils in Year 10 should bring in their own equipment which they cannot share.

18. What about food?

Children in Years R and 1 will be provided with a morning snack – usually a healthy option for example some “peelable” fruit and a drink. They will also get a free school lunch. Snacks and lunch will be brought to the “class bubble”. Children will not be able to access the canteens or socialise outside of their “bubble”.

Pupils in Year 10 may bring a healthy snack and drink. We will provide a free school lunch to those that are eligible on a “grab and go” basis.

19. What happens if my child falls unwell during the school day?

We will always have a trained first aider on the school site. If your child is unwell, then they will visit our medical room for an assessment. If our staff believe that there is a risk your child has COVID 19 we will ask you to get them tested ASAP. We will also immediately inform all of the other parents of the children in their “bubble” and ask them to get tested. Until such time that every member of the “bubble” is tested AND they are all negative, the “class bubble” cannot continue to attend school – we hope you understand that only by having this process can “bubbles” work. Equally, if your child falls unwell at home during any of the days that “bubble school” is open, then please alert us immediately. We will then ask you to get your child tested and suspend the “class bubble” until such time that every member of the “bubble” has been tested AND they are all negative. We will follow the latest Government Guidance around self-isolation times, but currently this is 14 days. All instances of suspected or confirmed outbreaks of COVID 19 will be communicated to our community:

- swiftly – if we have a suspected outbreak, we will inform all members of the “bubble school” immediately. However, only the “bubble class” impacted will need to self-isolate. All other “bubble classes” can continue, following a deep clean of the school;

- transparently – rather than allow rumour to swirl, we will make an announcement to all members of “bubble school”;
- with associated advice and guidance – we will always comfort and support families impacted by this virus;
- maintaining the anonymity of the child and family – we will never share names and would ask that our community avoids “speculation”.

20. Will children have their temperatures taken every day?

“No”. At this stage, there is no evidence to suggest that this is required. We have purchased additional “no touch” thermometers and can use these if the guidance from the Government changes.

21. Will KS1 SATs, Year 1 phonic check and the EYFSP still take place?

“No”. The Government have confirmed that all assessments such as these including GCSE and A Level will not take place in 2020. Please rest assured that we are sharing our internal data between staff so that when your child moves into their new class in September, the teacher clearly understands their strengths and areas for development.

22. When will I find out about the arrangements for September such as the name of my child’s new teacher?

Behind the scenes, the staff at Mayfield are working closely together to be ready for September. As yet, the Government has not confirmed the arrangements under which schools will run in the new academic year. As soon as we know, we will share this information with you.

23. Will the school be open in the Summer to catch pupils up?

We hope to run a Summer School, but this will not be available to every child since we typically only have limited staffing capacity. Further details about how this will operate will be published in July. One of the great advantages of being in an “all through” school is that we offer an extended school day and transition issues are less significant – we know our children very, very well. Therefore we are in a uniquely excellent position to help pupils catch up for the time “lost” during lockdown.

24. Will Breakfast, Extra - curricular and Teatime Clubs run?

We will not be able to offer any of these provisions for children in “bubble school”. This is because the children in different “bubbles” cannot mix.

However for pupils in “key worker school”:

- This will now finish at 3:00pm for all pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10;
- This will continue to finish at 4:30pm for all pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5;
- Tea time club will run as normal from the 1st of June between 5:40pm and 6:00pm and can be booked via ScoPay.

25. Is Little Sunbeams open?

Please contact: sunbeams@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

If you have any questions about their provision.

FAQs – Bubble School – Parents and Pupils - END