



Important Update – Wednesday 20th May.

Dear parent / carer,

I am writing to you to provide further detail regarding year 6 returning to school-based learning after half term and the continued provision for other pupils, including those who are the children of Key Workers who require childcare provision.

I appreciate that this will be a longer communication than usual but, given the circumstances, I believe you will appreciate having as much information as possible at this time.

The school is planning to be open from 1st June for all year 6 pupils. We will be offering schooling for 4.5 days each week. This is so we can carry out a deeper clean every Wednesday afternoon and also teachers can continue to provide home learning support and communication for those pupils in year 3, 4 and 5. School will therefore be closed to Year 6 pupils on a Wednesday afternoon.

All other pupils must stay at home and continue to engage with their distance learning in the way they have done up to now. For the children of Key Workers requiring childcare this will continue to be provided at school from 1st June and parents should continue to provide **24 hours notice** of their intention to use this provision. We may have to limit places if the need becomes too high for us to safely accommodate all requests.

Reminder of guidance published by the government:

As you know, whilst there has been a partial relaxing of the lockdown, there are still significant restrictions that we must all abide by. This is important for us as the “Bubble” approach we have taken is aimed at minimising the interaction of people when they are in school. To complement this approach it is important that we all minimise contact with other people when outside of school. I have summarised the key restrictions that are currently in place below:

- During the emergency period, no person may leave or be outside of the place where they are living without reasonable excuse.
- People are allowed to meet one member of another household in a public space.
- The law bans public gatherings of more than two people, except in specific circumstances.
- Exercise “with one member of another household” in outdoor public spaces, such as parks or the countryside is permitted.
- There is no limit on where the exercise can take place, and the government made clear in its new guidance that people can drive into the countryside for walks or recreation.

Bubbles:

To support social distancing and reduce the risk of unnecessary contact we are introducing Family Bubbles.

Each pupil will be part of a small, consistent Bubble with assigned staff who will only work with children in that Family Bubble. Children are, therefore, protected from contact with any other child outside their Bubble whilst at school.

How will the bubbles work?

- We have limited the Bubbles to 15 pupils.
- Your child will be issued with a coloured wristband on arrival. This wristband will need to be kept on throughout the whole day and will be replaced daily.
- Bubbles will study together, take breaks / lunches together and they will only use facilities such as playgrounds and IT suites with this bubble.
- If your child requires support from our pastoral team this may be accessed through an appointment and strict social distancing.

Opening Hours:

In order to welcome students back to Meon Juniors safely and ensure social distancing, we have introduced a staggered timetable for students returning to school-based learning. **Our overall school opening hours are: 8:30am-3:30pm however, there will be flexible start and finish times to allow for safe entry to the school.** In addition, we are changing how students and parents enter and leave the school by using a one-way system at the end of the day. At the start of the day, pupils will arrive through the Shelford Road gate so they can put their scooters and bikes away. The Crofton Road gate will not be open in the mornings. At the end of the day, pupils will leave through the Shelford Road gate to enable collection of bikes. If parents are collecting pupils, they will need to enter the school site through the Crofton Road gate and exit through the Shelford Road gate via a one-way system. Parents waiting on the playground will be required to practise social distance. Pupils walking home will be expected to walk straight home and practice social distancing on their journey. If you feel that your child is unable to do this I would suggest that they are collected by an adult.

The arrival and departure times for different bubbles will be as follows:

Bubble	Arrival Time	Departure Time Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri	Departure Time Wed	Entrance / Exit
Year 3 pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils	8:30-8:50am	3:10-3:30pm	3:10-3:30pm	Shelford Road
Year 4 pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils	8:30-8:50am	3:10-3:30pm	3:10-3:30pm	Shelford Road
Year 5 pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils	8:30-8:50am	3:10-3:30pm	3:10-3:30pm	Shelford Road
6B pupils	9:00- 9:15am	2:15-2:30pm	12:00-12:15pm	Shelford Road
6BW pupils	9:15-9:30am	2:30-2:45pm	12:15-12:30pm	Shelford Road
6J pupils	9:30-9:45am	2:45-3:00pm	12:30-12:45pm	Shelford Road

Year 6 key worker pupils may arrive between 8:30-8:50am.

The school day:

As explained in my previous letter each Bubble will follow its own individual timetable to ensure it is always kept separated from any other Bubble.

The timetable will include maths, reading and writing, other curriculum areas and a greater focus on personal, social, emotional, health education.

We will be working with children to help them re-socialise appropriately after an extended period of isolation.

We will of course be encouraging frequent and thorough hand washing throughout the day and encouraging the children to social distance as far as possible but as I am sure you can imagine we are limited by the size of our classrooms. Staff will also ensure that work areas, resources and equipment are cleaned regularly, especially if these are shared across bubbles. In the classrooms, there will be 15 tables which will be as spaced out as we can possibly make them and only one child will sit at each table. Each table will have its own set of resources (e.g. pencil, rubber, ruler) meaning that children will be encouraged not to share these. We will try to make use of the outdoor space we have at school as much as possible if the weather is good.

As Year 6 are older, we are expecting them to have more understanding for the need to socially distance. We will remind them frequently for the need to do this such as when they are using the toilets and when they are walking to and from school. We will use visual markers of 2 metres around the school to help them see how far away they need to keep from people in other "family bubbles." I am sure that you will also take the time to speak to your children about how important this is.

We anticipate that this new way of working will initially be challenging for pupils, especially those who have not been out publically during the pandemic. Our aim is to develop the habits of social distancing through support and encouragement.

School Lunches:

Robust controls are being implemented in kitchens to ensure catering staff are social distancing whilst preparing and serving food and extra checks will be made to ensure our supplier is delivering exceptionally high food safety standards.

We will be providing **hot meals and a packed lunch for parents to purchase in our normal way using parent pay.** Meals will only be free of charge for those pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

Families entitled to receive free school meals will continue to receive the voucher scheme until further notice. If your child does access a free school meal in school, we will provide this in addition to this voucher.

Uniforms:

During this time, we are not asking students to wear uniform. Clothes will need to be comfortable and suitable for sports. Please ensure that you keep your clothes clean and regularly washed to help

maintain the highest standards of hygiene. Whilst wearing non-school uniform our usual non-school uniform rules apply. Please note sandals or open-toe shoes are not acceptable.

Face masks:

The latest **Government guidance is that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended**. Furthermore, the government states that schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. 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.

Therefore, students and staff will not wear masks whilst in school.

PPE may be worn by staff for administration of first aid or when a pupil has symptoms of COVID 19.

School Rules:

This has been an unusual time for us all and we have had to make many adjustments during lockdown. Children would have missed their friends and the structure their school environment brings through routine. As we move into the next stage and begin to reclaim some normality, we will be asking all our students to remember school rules and behave in a suitable manner within their bubbles.

We must make it clear that our first priority is to keep our community safe as we transition back to school based learning. Therefore, **if a child is unable to engage appropriately at school, respecting social distancing and the need for Family Bubbles to remain apart from each other then we will have no choice but to ask that child to engage with distance learning at home**. This is to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

Parent Survey:

Parents in year 6 will be emailed a survey to support the school in its arrangements for the return of year 6 pupils.

Keeping our community safe over time:

Whilst we are studying within the Family Bubbles we will be following the Government self-isolation strategy. If a member of your child's bubble, student or staff, shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 we will be asking everyone in that bubble to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.

If your Child shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 do not send your child to school and inform the school office.

If you are at school and begin to show symptoms then you must tell your teacher immediately. We will contact parents to alert them that their child is showing symptoms and ask them to collect their child immediately.

These rules also apply if anyone in your household is affected. We are not medical professionals and we will be following the national advice. You can find information about symptoms [here](#).

Please note that if someone displays potentially Covid-19 symptoms but following a test is found not to have the virus then the members of the Family Bubble will be able to return to school.

Where to look for further information

We have launched today a dedicated website for information on our plans to return students safely to school.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is actively responding to ongoing developments with the Coronavirus outbreak so please use the links on this page for updated information on our response and what it will mean for you.

FAQs and information: www.tsatrust.org.uk/coronavirus

Summary for Year 6

- Introduce your child to the concept of the Bubble and the need to stay in the Bubble when at school. You can use this video here <https://youtu.be/VG347gkQ5zM>
- Note the start and finish time for your child's Bubble.
- Make arrangements for your child on a Wednesday afternoon when school is closed.
- Complete the parent survey when it is received.
- If students are not able to engage appropriately at school, respecting social distancing and the need for Bubbles to remain apart from each other then we will have no choice but to ask that child to engage with distance learning at home.
- If your child shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 do not send your child to school and inform the school office.
- If a child feels unwell, they should alert one of their Bubble staff immediately.
- If a member of your child's bubble, student or staff, shows symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 we will be asking everyone in that bubble to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days.
- **The latest Government guidance is that wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended.** Therefore, students and staff will not wear masks whilst in school. PPE may be worn by staff for administration of first aid or when a pupil has symptoms of COVID 19.

We look forward to safely welcoming some children back to school next term. We will keep under review our ability to safely accommodate children from other year groups going forward. However, this will only be done when we are confident that this can be done safely.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sara Paine