



Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be writing to tell you about the full reopening of Mill Rythe Junior School from Monday 7th September 2020. This letter contains a lot of detail which will be important to know both now but also throughout the Autumn term. It can be found on the school website under office and newsletters but I would encourage parents and carers to save a copy to refer back to.

Thank You!

Thank you to all of our parents who have balanced the demands of your own life and work alongside home educating your children since 23rd March. You have managed an incredibly demanding time brilliantly and your children have benefitted greatly from your time, love and care. It has been lovely to listen to teachers sharing the outcomes of their phone calls home and to have received so many emails and photos during this time detailing the work and family time individual families have shared. I also know that for some families this time has been particularly challenging. I am pleased that we have been able to support some of you but also wonder if there are other families who we could offer greater support to. Please do continue to talk to us about any challenges that you and your families are facing so that we can support all members of the Mill Rythe Family.

Risk Assessment

As we welcome everyone back to school in September and adjust our plan in light of the latest government guidance we have updated our risk assessment. I would encourage you to read this carefully and we will be happy to answer any questions that you may have. Please note the cover sheet indicates risk without control measure in place in red and with control measures in place in blue. It can be found by following this link:

<http://www.millrythejunior.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Covid-19-Full-Reopening-Risk-Assessment-MRJS.pdf>

What is the plan and what are bubbles?

Our plan is to maintain each class in school as an individual bubble of up to 30 children. 'Bubble' is the term used to describe the mini-families that we are creating to keep children and staff as safe as possible (I will refer to classes rather than bubbles throughout the rest of the letter). Each class will primarily only interact with their class teacher and teaching assistant – other staff may come into the class to facilitate the teaching of the curriculum and the meeting of individual children's needs but we will minimise this as much as possible. Where this does happen, adults will aim to work with children from a distance of 2 metres.



Your child will remain in their class all day and will not mix with children from other classes during lessons, break or lunchtime. Within the classrooms, desks will be arranged in rows to reduce the likelihood of germs being spread due to face to face transmission. With up to 30 children and three members of staff in each class, we cannot maintain social distancing within classes; at break and lunchtimes we will expect children to play without making physical contact with each other.

Children will be given their own resource pack in class and as such will not be sharing equipment with other children. Where we need to bring additional resources into classes for specific lessons, these will either be left for a period of 48 or 72 hours after use, before being used by other children or will be thoroughly cleaned.

Behaviour, well-being and learning

We will expect good levels of behaviour from all of our children and will support them to meet these expectations after being away from school and other children for so long. We know it has been an intense and strange time for many of them. When we return in September, Miss Ifould has prepared a lovely 'induction' curriculum. Children and staff will have time to focus on their own wellbeing and emotions, considering how they feel about coming back to school and how school is different to what we are used to and why. Through the book, 'Charlie Changes into a Chicken' by Sam Copeland, children will learn about how a little boy turns into a chicken whenever he is anxious and consider their own anxieties. They will explore how his friendships help him and how being empathetic towards others is so important, as well as developing a range of techniques to support us when we are anxious including yoga, breathing techniques and trick box. They will move onto exploring how the world has changed and the positives that have happened as a result of the pandemic.

Many of you have completed and returned to school the parent portraits that were shared with you earlier this term - thank you. The information in these enables teachers to build a really good picture of your child; if you have not yet done so, we would like to receive this asap so that staff can read them this summer. I am aware that the pandemic has affected families in a variety of ways. If your family have suffered a bereavement or are having a difficult time financially and you would like to share this information with myself and Miss Vousden please give us a call at school or email mrjsclosure@millrythejun.hants.sch.uk This will enable us to put the right support in place for your children and or family. This email account is not accessed by any other members of staff.

If we have any children who are not able to meet our expectations within school and as a result are not keeping themselves and others safe, then we will speak with parents, put a risk assessment and new plan in place. This may result in children having to work and play away from their class. I am sure this will not be necessary.

Headteacher: Mr David Bessant BA (QTS)

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Rebecca Vousden BSc PGCE

Mill Rythe Junior School, Havant Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0PA
02392 463663 www.millrythejunior.co.uk



How will the school day structure be changed?

In September, the school day will be structured very differently to enable us to support our increased numbers of children, staff and families in social distancing and maintaining the integrity of class bubbles. We are closing the school car park and asking families to walk, cycle or scoot to school to encourage social distancing. Cycle helmets must be worn by all children (and adults) who cycle to school; bikes and scooters must be pushed on the school site. Children in years 3 and 4 who cycle, must be accompanied by an adult. The bike shed will not be open so children will bring their bikes and scooters onto the playground and leave them against the fences. We are asking that only one adult brings their child to school.

When children arrive at school, they will enter the school building by their designated entrance and move straight to their classrooms where they will use hand sanitiser before sitting at their own desk.

Once in school, children will remain in their classes with their class teacher and teaching assistant. They will spend breaktime with their teaching assistant and will have lunch with a consistent staff team across the week. Break and lunchtimes are split across three sessions with three or four classes being outside at one time. Children will not be able to cross from one zone to another and there is a gap between zones to ensure distancing from other classes is maintained. Children will eat their breaktime snack in their classrooms after break and will eat their school dinners or packed lunches in their classrooms during lunchtimes.

After all of the classes have completed their 'induction' curriculum, they will be taught maths and English in the morning with the foundation subjects in the afternoon. Whilst the school day has not reduced in time, we have a slightly reduced teaching timetable due to the time lost washing and sanitising hands each day. This time will be utilised in a variety of ways including enjoying class readers, recalling knowledge through quizzes, practising spellings and phonic knowledge etc; the time cannot be used for whole class teaching. We are really looking forward to working with all of our children again and supporting them to close any gaps that may have developed in their learning following the lockdown before ensuring they continue to learn-laugh-achieve together. I will be writing to you all before the end of term to share the home learning plan for the summer which is designed around some short activities each week. Please complete this alongside your children so that they are well prepared for the new school year.

Each class has a slightly different start and end time to their school day. All classes will arrive via the main blue gate onto the playground. If accompanied by an adult, the adult will leave via the bus gate. The table below sets out the timings for each bubble and these must be adhered to by all families to keep everyone safe and to enable learning in class to start on time. There is a ten-minute window for each class to arrive within. I'd like to thank you in advance for your support with this. If you arrive and there are

Headteacher: Mr David Bessant BA (QTS)

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Rebecca Vousden BSc PGCE

Mill Rythe Junior School, Havant Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0PA
02392 463663 www.millrythejunior.co.uk



children/adults waiting to enter the playground, please be mindful and maintain a 2-metre distance between yourselves and them. There are additional floor markings to support you with this. Please do not gather on the school site with other adults and children.

Class	Arrival time	Leaving time
3AT	8:10 – 8:20	2:55
3MD	8:10 – 8:20	2:55
4JS	8:20 -8:30	3:05
4IC	8:20 -8:30	3:05
5JH	8:30 – 8:40	3:15
5SG	8:30 – 8:40	3:15
5MC	8:40 – 8:50	3:25
5SH	8:40 – 8:50	3:25
6SB	8:50 -9:00	3:35
6AF	8:50 -9:00	3:35
6GR	9:00 – 9:10	3:45

At the end of the school day, children will be released using the current collection arrangements – either walk home alone or collection by a named adult. If you wish to change these, please email Mrs Williamson using k.williamson@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk or message the office team on 07786 207779 so that these can be adjusted accordingly. If you ever need to change them within a school day, please notify the office before 2pm so that there is time to communicate this to class teachers. If you are coming onto the school site to collect your child, we are asking for only one adult from each family to attend and for all adults to stand well away from classroom doors and at least 2 metres away from other adults.

I am aware that the staggered start and finish times may present some challenges and that with siblings in different year groups this is not as convenient as a normal school day would be – I hope we can get back to that asap.

What does my child need?

Every child will be provided with a pack containing their own resources including all stationery; none of this will be shared. Your child will need to have their coat in school every day, regardless of the weather. They may bring a small bag to school which will be used to transport books, reading star journals, knowledge organisers, fruit snacks and for some children packed lunches between home and school. Children will have access to their lockers.

Your child needs a named water bottle because we will not be supplying cups in school. We will not ask parents to drop in water bottles to the school office as we want continue to limit the number of people on

Headteacher: Mr David Bessant BA (QTS)

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Rebecca Vousden BSc PGCE

Mill Rythe Junior School, Havant Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0PA
02392 463663 www.millrythejunior.co.uk



the school site. Children also need their packed lunch if they are having one. Please pay for school packed lunches / school dinners online. Do not send cash in with your child. If you do not have online payment set up, please email k.williamson@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk and she will be really happy to help you. Accounts must be in credit for us to be able to provide meals. Hot school dinners will be available on a rota basis – details to follow. The snack trolley will not be available at break time. Children can bring a fresh or dried fruit snack for break times.

On one day each week, children will come to school wearing their school PE kit. They will wear it throughout the day and have a PE lesson in the afternoon. Within their PE bag, they will need to have a change of footwear, a plastic carrier bag and a light weight waterproof jacket/kagool as I want to be able to get outside in most weather. PE days are indicated below:

Class	Day for wearing PE kit
3AT	Tuesday
3MD	Tuesday
4IC	Wednesday
4JS	Wednesday
5MC	Thursday
5JH	Thursday
5SG	Friday
5SH	Friday
6AF	Friday
6GR	Monday
6SB	Monday

Will parents be allowed on site?

With the exception of drop off and collection arrangements, I would like to minimise the number of adults on the school site at any one time. If you are visiting the office to bring things into school, only one adult will be able to enter at a time. If you have a pre-planned appointment then the member of staff who you are meeting will come and collect you from reception.

This is not how I want our school to be operating but it is necessary in the short term to enable us to keep children, families and staff safe. You can email us using admin@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk or call at any time if you have any questions and we will be happy to help.

Does my child have to attend full time?



Yes. From September all children will be expected to attend school with good punctuality every day unless they are unwell. If any children or members of their families are displaying symptoms of Covid-19, then they should not come to school. The symptoms are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

For more information about symptoms, read the further [guidance on symptoms](#).

If you have one or more of these symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 7 days – or longer if you still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. If you live in the same household as someone with coronavirus symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 14 days.

You must book a test using the link below and I would ask you to do this on the day that symptoms develop and then inform me of the outcome so that we can minimise the risk of an outbreak in school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

If you are an essential worker you can book your test using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test-essential-workers>

If you or your child test positive, you will need to be ready to provide details of anyone you/they have been in 'close contact' with. These people will be asked to self-isolate for at least 14 days and will need to be tested if they develop symptoms during this time – other members of these households do not need to self-isolate unless symptoms develop. If this test comes back negative, they will still need to remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day period as symptoms could still develop. If the test result is positive, please inform me immediately; at this point the rest of the household and your support bubble would need to self-isolate for 14 days from this point and the child would need to self-isolate for at least 7 days or later if the temperature remains.

As a school in these circumstances, we will contact the local health protection team who will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who needs to self-isolate.

My child was shielding or lives with someone who is shielding – do they have to return to school?



Shielding advice for all adults and children pauses on 1st August, subject to a decline in the rates of community transmission of Covid-19. This means that all children can return to school, including those who have family members who are shielding. If your child is under the care of a specialist health professional, please talk to this professional and then contact me at school to share their advice so that we can ensure provision is right for your child. If shielding comes back into force, then home learning will be provided which will be monitored. I am very happy to talk through individual cases with children and parents/carers.

How will toileting work?

The guidance around toileting has changed since the partial re-opening of school in the summer term. Classes will have designated toilets to use at set points in the school day but these will be used by more than one class. Only one boy and one girl from each class will be able to use the toilets at any one-time during lessons. The toilets that are to be used are marked and children have crosses on the floor in the corridors outside to stand on so that they remain at least 2 metres apart whilst waiting to use them or to wash their hands. When classes are using the toilets to wash their hands before eating, they will be taken to the toilet in groups of about ten children. As they are with children from their class, they will not have to social distance at these times.

How will cleaning be increased?

A deep clean of school will be taking place during the summer holiday. When we reopen in September, toilets, sinks and door handles will continue to be cleaned throughout the day. Doors are left open to enable movement around the school without the need to touch them. Tables in the classes will be cleaned at lunchtime after the children have eaten.

In the event of a child or member of staff displaying Covid-19 symptoms, the rest of the class will be moved to a spare classroom whilst their own class is closed prior to it being thoroughly cleaned following PHE guidance. We also have an isolation room within school if we need to use it for children or staff who are displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Once the child or member of staff has left the site, this will also be cleaned in the same way.

How will handwashing be encouraged?

Handwashing and sanitising are now a regular part of school life and is supervised by adults at all times – this will continue in September with the only handwashing that isn't supervised taking place after children have used the toilet within lesson time. All children will be taught how to wash their hands at the start of term and this will be something that we keep coming back to. When children arrive at school they will sanitise their hands before entering the classroom. Before eating food, children will be supervised washing their hands. When children enter a new room or return to their classroom having been working in another part of school, e.g. computer suite, they will sanitise their hands. Children will also sanitise their hands before leaving school at the end of each day.

Does my child need to wear school uniform? What about caps and sun cream?



I am expecting all members of the MRJS family to be looking incredibly smart at the start of term and to maintain this throughout the school year. There have been some changes to our uniform expectations which were shared with you in the parents information handbook earlier this term. On the day when children have their PE session, they will wear their school PE kit for the whole day to avoid the need for changing. Please ensure that children have caps and come to school wearing sun cream if we return to some lovely weather in September. Coats must be in school at all times so that we can get out for some fresh air and exercise at break and lunchtime. Uniform does not need to be cleaned more often than normal or washed using different methods.

What if my child becomes unwell at school?

If your child becomes unwell at school, then we will ask for your child to be collected. We won't send them home if they just cough once but if this becomes a persistent cough or they are clearly unwell, we will call you. We have a digital forehead thermometer and we will use this if any child presents as unwell in order to protect the health of the rest of the children and staff. In the event of having to send a child home with potential Covid-19 symptoms, we will notify all parents in the class. Children and staff do not need to self-isolate if they have been in contact with the child unless they develop symptoms themselves or a positive test is returned. We will not notify you if a child goes home with different symptoms. In the event of your child going home with Covid-19 symptoms, we would then ask you to book a Covid-19 test using the details shared earlier in the letter.

The government have told us that we will have a small number of home test kits in school for the start of the Autumn term so may be able to send you home with one to use immediately.

Following the test, please let us know the result on the same day. If a test is positive, the whole class, including staff have to self-isolate for 14 days. Other members of the household group, who members of this class live with, do not need to self-isolate unless the child they live with develops symptoms; at this point they should be tested. If this test is positive, then the household and their support bubble have to isolate for the next 14 days. We will inform all families in a class asap of the outcome of any tests without sharing names of the children involved.

What if my child's class teacher becomes unwell?

If a class teacher or teaching assistant becomes unwell with Covid-19 symptoms the same process as described for children will be followed. Parents will be informed in the same way. If a teacher is unwell with non-covid-19 symptoms then we will continue to teach the rest of the class in school.

What happens if a class is closed?

If we have to close any classes, from the start of September, then we will provide the children with a curriculum to work from at home. We have asked parents to let us know if they are not able to access the internet at home as we can now provide access to a BT hotspot for free for six months. Home learning will largely be online so it is important that this information has been shared with us. We will endeavour to

Headteacher: Mr David Bessant BA (QTS)

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Rebecca Vousden BSc PGCE

Mill Rythe Junior School, Havant Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0PA
02392 463663 www.millrythejunior.co.uk



ensure the learning at home is as closely matched to the learning that is taking place in school to reduce the risk of further gaps developing.

Children and staff wearing PPE

The government do not advise children or staff to wear PPE as they are unable to wear it effectively. The most effective thing that we can all do it is to social distance effectively, wash our hands regularly with soap and water for at least twenty seconds and to not touch our faces. Staff who are supporting children who are unwell or who need help with any injuries will wear face masks, aprons and gloves to keep the children and themselves safe. If we have any children aged 11+ travelling to school using public transport then they will need to be taught how to remove and dispose of/store face masks safely. We would appreciate parents doing this with their children before then come onto the school site following the guidance below:

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in a plastic bag for storage before washing later or a bin if being disposed of
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash or sanitise hands immediately after removing

Mobile phones

I would prefer mobile phones to not be in school. If your child needs to have a phone in school, they will need to give it to myself or Miss Vousden when they arrive on site in a named sandwich bag. Phones can be collected from us when they leave at the end of the day. Please do consider whether this is necessary at this time.

Inhalers and medication

If your child has asthma and they took their inhaler home when school was closed to most children, please ensure they bring it with them when they return to school. If your child has other medication that we need to be aware of and or administer please contact Mrs Ginn via the school office or on s.ginn@millrythejun.hants.sch.uk

Extra-curricular clubs, swimming and Kidzone

At the moment, I do not envisage being able to run clubs in the Autumn term. I am really disappointed at this prospect as the amazing range of opportunities available to our children at MRJS is something that I am very proud of and know our children love. However, our priority has to be maintaining the integrity of each class bubble and clubs will not support this; the staggered start and finish times complicate this further. Whilst we heard last week that swimming pools can re-open, I do not expect swimming to be part of our curriculum in the autumn term. I hope that we can get the local swimming clubs back to using the pool asap and look forward to seeing our children swimming as part of the curriculum during 2021.

Headteacher: Mr David Bessant BA (QTS)

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Rebecca Vousden BSc PGCE

Mill Rythe Junior School, Havant Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 0PA
02392 463663 www.millrythejunior.co.uk



I will be looking at the guidance for breakfast and after school clubs and will meet with Gill Wrixon shortly to discuss this too. We will then be in a position to communicate to parents if Kidzone will be returning in September and if so in what capacity.

We need your help

Since 23rd March we have been able to keep children and staff safe in school due to the diligence of the families that we have been working with and the reduced R rate in our area. Health professionals expect the R rate to increase again during the Autumn term and this will also coincide with the normal flu season. To enable us to keep our children, different families and staff safe during the phased re-opening:

- Please ensure that every member of your family stringently follows the government guidance and remain up to date with changes that they make.
- Please tell us if anyone in your household has been symptomatic or had a positive test in the last 14 days.
- Please do not send your child to school if they or someone in your household is displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.
- Please ensure that your child arrives and is collected from school at the allocated time for their class. We cannot keep people safe if they are arriving outside of these windows and both the education of your child and their peers will be adversely affected if learning cannot start on time or is disrupted by children arriving late.
- Please ensure that children have the right equipment with them in school. Each day children need their reading star journal, knowledge organisers, reading book, water bottle and a coat. Most children will want to have a fresh or dried fruit snack. Children need a change of footwear and a carrier bag on their PE day together with a light water proof jacket/kagool. All home learning is due back in school on a Monday - this is a change from the current academic year.
- Please pay for school dinners, trips etc online.
- Please give careful consideration to the number of wraparound care providers and clubs that children attend beyond MRJS. They have the potential to significantly increase the chances of an outbreak of Covid-19 at MRJS if the R rate increases within our community.

Summary

I know this is a lot of information to process but I hope it makes it really clear that although we have put strong measures in place based on the new guidance that has been given to schools about the full re-opening of schools in September; our school will still be a friendly, welcoming and organised place for your child to come to. If you would like to read the full guidance it can be found using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

We are looking forward to having your child in school and are excited to hear about all the activities they have been enjoying as well as the summer holiday that everyone must be looking forward to. If you have



Mill Rythe
JUNIOR SCHOOL

any questions about this letter or the risk assessment, please contact myself or Miss Vousden via mrjsclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk and we will be very happy to help.

I have made a new FAQ sheet for children which is attached and would ask you to talk this through with them alongside the details within this letter. Please reinforce that we are excited about them coming back to school but that we need to work together to keep each other safe.

I would just like to add a thank you to the whole staff who have been incredible throughout both the lockdown and partial reopening of school since May half term. They have been unwaveringly positive and supportive whilst working incredibly hard in so many different ways to support our children who have been both in school and at home.

And finally thank you to you, our parents and carers who have helped us throughout this challenging time.

Have a great summer and I will look forward to seeing you in September.

David Bessant

Headteacher

Mill Rythe Junior School