



Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be writing to tell you about the full reopening of Mill Rythe Junior School from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Reuniting the MRJS family is something that we have all been looking forward to since the start of this academic year and we can't wait to welcome your child(ren) back to school next week.

### MRJS Roadmap

We have spent a lot of time thinking about the best way to reopen our school with the priority being keeping children, their families and our staff safe whilst also ensuring that school can feel as normal as possible for our children. With this in mind, we are going to be following the government's roadmap out of lockdown with the hope that we can adjust our approach throughout the rest of this academic year. This letter will explain the first two phases of this approach.

**Phase 1 - a return to the measures that we had in place in the Autumn term of 2020**

**Phase 2 – a move to year group bubbles outside**

#### Phase 1

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we will return to class bubbles and the staggered start and end times of our school day from the Autumn term. 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. All adults accompanying children to school will continue to wear face coverings and should maintain a distance of at least two metres when talking to staff on the playground.

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

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Please don't send your children to school before or after their arrival time. We are told that the new variants of Covid-19 are highly transmissible and we don't want children from different class bubbles mixing before school. It is equally important that children don't leave school with children from other classes unless this is part of a child care bubble that I have been notified of. I know this is hard for children to maintain but it is important if we are to achieve the government's target of removing all restrictions by late June of this year.

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. The school day will retain the same structure as it did in the Autumn term.

At the end of the school day, children will be released using the December 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](mailto:k.williamson@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk) or message the office team on 07786 207779 so that these can be adjusted accordingly. If you 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.

### **School Dinners, Packed Lunches and Break Time Snacks**

Until Easter, our dinner menu will return to the one in place during the Autumn term. The street food and picnic menu is available each week with the main hot menu available in alternate weeks. Years 3, 4 and 5 will have the hot, picnic and street food menu in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March, with year 6 having the picnic and street food menu. Further details can be found via: <http://www.millrythejunior.co.uk/school-dinners/>

Children should continue to have a fruit snack each day for break time and to have a named water bottle in school.



## PE Programme for Spring and Summer Term

We have broken the rest of the school year down into two blocks of PE so that each class gets at least 8 weeks of swimming (restrictions permitting). In the 'games' session, children will be taught indoor athletics and striking and fielding games (tennis, cricket and rounders). **Please make a note of the change in dates so that children have the correct kit in school; these are not tied to half terms.**

	PE Day	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March until Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May until Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July
3AT	Tuesday	Games	Swimming
3MD	Tuesday	Swimming	Games
4JS	Wednesday	Games	Swimming
4IC	Wednesday	Swimming	Games
5MC	Thursday	Swimming	Games
5JH	Thursday	Games	Swimming
5SG	Friday	Swimming	Games
5SH	Friday	Games	Swimming
6AF	Monday	Swimming	Games
6GR	Monday	Swimming	Games
6SB	Monday	Games	Swimming

## PE and Swimming Kit

Children will continue to come to school wearing their PE kit on the days when they have PE. If your child's class are swimming, they should come to school in school uniform and have their swimming kit in their swim bag.

### PE kit for games

MRJS shorts and t-shirts, trainers, spare shoes, a carrier bag, tracksuit bottoms or leggings (spring term only), a warm top and waterproof jacket.

### Swimming kit

Boys: plain blue or black trunks (ie speedos or jammers, not baggy shorts)

Girls: a plain blue or black one piece swimsuit



All children will need a swimming hat and towel. Hats can be purchased from the school office for £1.40

### Phase 2 – Summer Term 2021 (TBC)

The government have said that, no sooner than 29<sup>th</sup> March, the rule of 6 or mixing of two households can return alongside the opening of outdoor sports facilities and organised sport for children and adults. Whilst I know we have done the right thing by putting class bubbles in place, I also know that these have prevented friends in the same year group from being able to laugh and play together at break and lunchtime. For too many of our children, this restriction has been in place for almost a year and we know the impact that this can have on children's mental health. With this in mind, we hope to return to school in the summer term with year group bubbles in place for break and lunchtime that will enable, for example, all of year 6 to play alongside each other. We will continue to maintain class bubbles within school as we are told that Covid-19 is more transmissible in enclosed spaces but hope that parents and children will welcome this change in approach.

This will see change our staggered start and end times as well as the entrance and exit points to school for classes as shown below:

Class	Arrival time	Finish time	Enter and leave school via
3AT	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Playground and class door
3MD	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Playground and class door
6SB	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Playground and class door
6AF	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Playground and class door
6GR	8.35-8.45am	3.15pm	Playground and class door
4IC	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	Playground and class door
4JS	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	Playground and class door
5MC	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	5MC fire exit *
5SH	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	5SH fire exit *
5SG	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	Playground and Victorian Wing door
5JH	8.50-9.00am	3.30pm	Playground and Link Corridor

**\*children in 5MC and 5SH will not come onto the playground. They should walk down towards reception before waiting outside their classroom doors.**

Parents will be told in advance of the Summer term if this change to the systems in school is being made.



### **Parents Evening**

These were due to take place in March but will now be moved to the start of the summer term. Please see key dates at the end of this letter.

### **Bereavement**

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 [mrjrclosure@millrythe-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:mrjrclosure@millrythe-jun.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.

### **Car Park**

We are going to trial re-opening the car park from 8<sup>th</sup> March. For our environment, mental and physical health and ability to social distance effectively, I would like to encourage families to continue to walk, cycle or scoot to school. However, I do understand that this will be helpful to families who are dropping children at school and then needing to get to work. If we become aware of families not social distancing within the car park, then the car park will be closed again.

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.

### **BASC**

Before and after school club will be open as normal from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please continue to book sessions as you did in the Autumn term. Mr Miles and the team can't wait to see you from 7.30am on Monday morning.

### **Do Not Wreck This Now!**

Jonathan Van Tam, the deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, made this statement last week in relation to the public not thinking that schools returning, vaccinations being administered and better weather meaning we can relax the way in which we have been applying the stay at home and social distancing guidance. We have staff and families in school who are still extremely vulnerable to Covid-19. We all want to have a summer when we can return to seeing loved ones and spending time doing the things that we love. A few more weeks of doing the right thing to

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protect each other and to ensure we don't have to return to another lockdown seems like sound advice.

Please can I ask you to read and then do the following:

- Speak to your children about the importance of social distancing from anyone who is not in their class at all times.
- Speak to your children about the importance of washing their hands thoroughly and regularly.
- Ensure that all adults wear face masks when they come onto the school site and that only one adult comes onto the school site with your child.
- Continue to not place others in danger by talking to them at distances less than 2 metres.
- Do not arrive at school before or after your arrival time. As the autumn term progressed, there were an increasing number of children and families gathering before their arrival time.
- Do not allow your children to walk/travel to and from school with children from other class bubbles unless this is a childcare bubble that you have spoken to Mr Bessant about. If you are a parent of a child who walks home, please really emphasise the importance of this with your children.
- If you or a member of your household has symptoms, that person and all members of your household need to self-isolate immediately and fully for ten days. They need to book a test and await the result before your child potentially returns to school if the test result is negative. Going out for a walk or meeting one person because you or other members of your household feel well is not self-isolating and places others in danger.

### And finally

I hope in years to come, members of the MRJS family will look back upon this time with a sense of pride. It has been incredibly challenging but the resilience and positive attitude that has been shown by children as young as seven and parents, carers and staff, who are a little bit older, has been remarkable. If your child is learning from home this week, please ensure that they engage fully with the maths and English learning in particular as this will be essential to them moving seamlessly back into learning in their classrooms.

See you on Monday.

David Bessant



Headteacher

Mill Rythe Junior School

### **Key Dates**

#### **Spring 2**

- 8<sup>th</sup> March Reopening of MRJS
- 31<sup>st</sup> March Intervention Celebration Assembly
- 1<sup>st</sup> April Winning house cinema and popcorn reward

#### **Summer 1**

- 19<sup>th</sup> April Parents evening 4-7pm 3AT, 4IC, 5SG and 5SH
- 20<sup>th</sup> April Parents evening 4-6pm 3AT, 4IC, 5SG and 5SH
- 21<sup>th</sup> April Parents evening 4-7pm 3MD, 4JS, 5JH and 5MC
- 22<sup>th</sup> April Parents evening 4-6pm 3MD, 4JS, 5JH and 5MC
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May Bank Holiday
- 14<sup>th</sup> May History of Art Day

#### **Summer 2**

- 7<sup>th</sup> June Inset day
- 8<sup>th</sup> June Winning House Ice Bun and non-uniform day
- 18<sup>th</sup> June Fathers Day Shopping
- 28<sup>th</sup> June Year 3 and 4 Sports Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> June Year 5 and 6 Sports Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> July Bikeability for Year 6
- 12<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 Assessment Week
- 16<sup>th</sup> July Year 6 at Paultons Park
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July Calshot (TBC)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July Winning House BBQ and Waterfight
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July Year 6 Leavers Assembly

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