



PRINCE'S MEAD

PHASED RETURN OF PUPILS (1st JUNE – 31st JULY)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



PRINCE'S MEAD

Contents

ELIGIBILITY	4
Is my child able to return on Monday 1 st June?	4
My child is eligible and I would like them to return. What do I need to do?.....	4
Do I have to send my child back to School?	4
COMMUNICATION.....	4
How will you communicate some of these arrangements with my child?.....	4
What information does Prince's Mead plan to communicate to parents regarding any suspected and confirmed cases?	5
Will the technical support team still be available?	5
TRANSPORT.....	5
Will the school buses be in operation?.....	5
Where do I drop-off my child?	5
TIMINGS	5
When do I drop-off and collect my child?.....	5
What are the timings of the school day?	6
Can I vary the hours my child attends School?	6
When do I collect my child?	6
We have a planned holiday before 31 st July. Can my child return to school?.....	6
When is the end of term?	6
PASTORAL CARE.....	7
My child is anxious about returning. What shall I do?	7
Can my child bring in a soft toy for comfort?	7
I have a sibling left at home who can't yet return - how do I deal with this?	7
Can I still see my child's teacher for an informal chat at the beginning/end of the day?.....	8
Will you be continuing your support to key workers?	8
MEDICAL.....	8
How will social distancing be managed?	8
I am worried my child is too close to another bubble or class.	9
How does the guidance apply in the Nursery?.....	9
Does my child need to wear a face mask?	10
Are there any restrictions for parents on the school site?	10
What if my child is shielded and clinically vulnerable?	10

What is my child is living with a shielded or clinically vulnerable person?	10
What if a child becomes unwell at Prince’s Mead?	10
If a sibling child in one bubble displays symptoms, what happens to their sibling and those children of the separate bubble they are in?	11
Who organises a test – Prince’s Mead or parents?	11
Who is eligible for a test?	11
Will my child get a test?	11
We have our test results – what do we do next?	12
What if a child or member of staff tests positive?	12
Will contact tracing be in place at Prince’s Mead?	12
How do we take part in ‘track and trace’?	12
What lessons will my child be receiving?	12
Can my child stay at home for remote learning all or some of the time?	13
Will my child be able to bring home reading books each day?	13
Use of equipment.	13
What stationery does my child need?	13
Does my child require their school bag or book bag?	13
Does my child require sports kit?	14
CURRICULUM	14
Will my child receive prep (homework)?	14
EXTRAS	14
Will my child be receiving lunch?	14
Will wrap-around care be offered?	14
Does my child need to wear school uniform?	14
Can we use the Prince’s Mead facilities out of hours?	14

ELIGIBILITY

Is my child able to return on Monday 1st June?

We look forward to welcoming back Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. In line with Government guidance, our Nursery will also be opening at this time. Subject to ongoing government review, we anticipate that all children at Prince's Mead can return to school before the summer holidays, particularly with our decision to extend the term up until the 31st July for those parents that request it.

We are conscious of those children not yet part of the planned return on the 1st June. From the Government's latest guidance of 28th May we continue to anticipate that all Prince's Mead pupils (i.e. primary school age) can return before the summer holidays and benefit from our offer to extend the opening of Prince's Mead until Friday 31st July, for those who wish to take up this offer.

Reducing the risks for children and staff is our utmost priority.

My child is eligible and I would like them to return. What do I need to do?

Please complete a self-declaration form available on our Parent Portal no later than midday on Sunday 31st May.

Do I have to send my child back to School?

We know that some of you may be concerned about sending your children back to school. The Government has stated in the guidance for parents that children in the eligible year groups are strongly encouraged to return to school, unless they are in one of the groups who should not attend.

However, we hope that by sharing our plan, together with the experience we have already gained with remaining open for children of key workers and our commitment to comply with government guidance as a minimum, you feel reassured about the safety of your child at Prince's Mead.

Any parents who do not intend to send their (eligible) child into school were expected to let Matron know no later than Thursday 21st May in order to assist with our operational planning and so that we could discuss with you any concerns you may have had.

COMMUNICATION

How will you communicate some of these arrangements with my child?

We are keen to be working together as staff and parents, ensuring that the message that we give our children is clear and informative, without making them fearful. Over the course of the next couple of days, Form Teachers and Form Tutors will endeavour to speak with their tutees as part of their weekly check-ins to sensitively

communicate some of these arrangements and ready children for their return to school.

What information does Prince's Mead plan to communicate to parents regarding any suspected and confirmed cases?

Whilst always respecting medical confidentiality of pupils, we will naturally inform parents if there has been a child displaying symptoms or who has received test results in your child's bubble so you can make an informed choice.

Will the technical support team still be available?

Our commitment to those pupils receiving remote learning remains unchanged and the technical support team will still be available during working hours to support you with any technical queries. (techsupport@princesmeadschool.org.uk)

TRANSPORT

Will the school buses be in operation?

For reasons of safety, our transport service will not be in operation for this first phase of return. We would encourage parents and children to walk or cycle to school where possible. For those pupils cycling to school, bicycles can be left in the minibus parking area during the day or the lower field for pupils in Year 6.

Where do I drop-off my child?

The routine 'Kiss and Drop system' will be in operation. Where necessary, parents are asked to assist their children with exiting vehicles at drop-off as staff will not be able to assist you in their normal way at this point in time. You are kindly requested not to remain on-site but depart the school site as soon as your child is dropped off. There are different drop-off locations for each group of children returning and we will communicate these with you if this is the case. If you have siblings in different year groups, we ask that you drop off your children according to the specific time and location of your child. In these circumstances, we are happy for you to remain in your car with your second sibling until this time.

TIMINGS

When do I drop-off and collect my child?

Drop off times will be staggered to improve the flow of traffic and reduce any risk of mixing of different groups of children. Nursery pupils only can arrive at the time with their sibling at the drop-off time.

Bubble Group	Drop-off Time	Drop-off Location	Pick-up Time	Pick-up Location

Key Workers	8.00am	Portico	4.00pm	Portico
RO	8.15am	Netball Court	3.45pm	Netball Court
RL	8.15am	Portico	3.45pm	Portico
6 - Pioneers	8.15am	Lower Field	4.00pm	Lower Field
6 - Explorers	8.15am	Lower Field	4.00pm	Lower Field
6 - Adventurers	8.15am	Lower Field	4.00pm	Lower Field
N	8.30am	Car Park	3.30pm	Nursery Door
1H	8.45am	Netball Court	4.00pm	Netball Court
1W	8.45am	Portico	4.00pm	Portico

If children are cycling in, Year 6 should secure their bikes on the lower field at the drop off location, whilst other pupils should leave their bikes in the minibus car park.

What are the timings of the school day?

Start and finish times for different year groups will be staggered to ensure access to the School site is carefully managed. Please refer to the table above for full details.

Can I vary the hours my child attends School?

In line with normal protocol, children are expected to attend during the published hours. This also helps ensure we are sensibly managing access to the School site throughout the day.

When do I collect my child?

Collection times will be staggered to improve the flow of traffic and reduce any risk of mixing of different groups of children. Please refer to the table above for full details.

We have a planned holiday before 31st July. Can my child return to school?

Whilst we would want to welcome back your child, a self-declaration form would need to be completed before any return is considered. If your child has travelled to any location where we assess it carries a risk to the bubble of children they are in, they would not be able to return until we are content the risk has passed.

When is the end of term?

Our commitment remains to extend our Summer Term until Friday 31st July (from the scheduled date of Friday 10th July). If you do not wish to take advantage of this,

please let Matron know by no later than **Monday 1st June** in order to assist us with our operational planning. We intend to do our utmost to honour all major pre-published events on the dates intended unless we communicate otherwise. We are currently working through the format of these events.

PASTORAL CARE

My child is anxious about returning. What shall I do?

We understand this may be the case for some children. We advise that you speak with your child about their return, letting them lead the conversation and giving them the opportunity to ask lots of questions. This will help to work out what children know already and what gaps that may need filling or myths that need to be dispelled. It is so important to be truthful and honest with our children; we do need to shield them from some areas, but it is important that they trust us as adults and continue to want to talk to us about such issues.

It is very easy for the Coronavirus to be the main topic of conversation in these times, which can sometimes cause worry in our children as they pick up on conversations both at home and at school. It is vital that we talk to our children about current events, but we shouldn't let them dominate and take over our children enjoying being children. In these uncertain times, it is good for our children to have routine and normality, to play outside and to laugh with friends.

Children love responsibility and we can empower them in their everyday lives as we encourage them to wash their hands properly and have good hygiene – and not to pick their noses! Good hand washing practice will hopefully last a lifetime and will keep our society much healthier and bug resistant in the future. We can remind our children that their return to Prince's Mead is a very positive indicator that this time will pass and there will be an end to this period. Whatever you decide as parents, giving your child a choice as to 'return or not' at their age is too much for them to deal with and, of course, they are not equipped with the knowledge or experience to make such decisions.

Can my child bring in a soft toy for comfort?

We understand that some Pre-Prep children may wish to bring in a cuddly toy in order to provide comfort with the transition back into school. If your child is heavily reliant on a small cuddly toy, please could you pop it through a wash prior to your child returning and be aware that it will need to remain in school for the week and then be brought home at the weekend for washing. One pocket toy for playtimes is also still permitted. However, this will need to remain in school during the week.

I have a sibling left at home who can't yet return - how do I deal with this?

Whilst we would love to welcome back all children at this stage, we will remain sensible and cautious in our approach. The direction from government is very specific to the year groups involved.

Until such time, our full provision of remote learning will continue for all other year groups. We await further guidance on a likely date for them, and it remains to be seen whether this will be done by reference to a time period prior to the start of the school holidays or whether a set date will be given in the same way it has been for the year groups returning initially. It seems more likely that it will be the latter, and that this has been given simply as an indication of the government's intention in respect of timing. This question is being raised with the DfE to determine more clarity and a timescale for updates.

Can I still see my child's teacher for an informal chat at the beginning/end of the day?

Please email your child's teacher/ bubble leader for any day-to-day sharing of information. You are also very welcome to request a telephone or Zoom call.

Will you be continuing your support to key workers?

Prince's Mead remains proudly committed to supporting children of those key workers who registered with the school. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be returning to their year groups whilst the few remaining children in other year groups will be supported in Room 9. Drop-off and collection times have needed to be adjusted and are available to view in our plan. We have needed to balance staffing carefully between support to our key workers, remote learning and teaching returning pupils but are pleased to confirm that Mrs Thacker and Miss Stares will be supporting these children. A packed-lunch for your child will no longer be required from Monday 1st June.

MEDICAL

How will social distancing be managed?

We acknowledge that, unlike older children and adults, Early Years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. This is more feasible for children in Year 6 than it will for those in Reception and Year 1 but will still be difficult outside of a classroom setting. We know the simple fact is that it is not in the nature of young children to follow social distancing. In the Government's decision to bring more children back to early years and schools, they have taken this into account. However, there are important actions that our school community will be taking to help prevent the spread of the virus. These include:

- Children, and staff wherever possible, will only be mixing in a small, consistent group of no more than 15 pupils.
- These groups will be staying away from other people and groups.
- Each classroom will contain no more than 15 pupils and arrangements will be in place to ensure classes are fairly divided where necessary.

- Desks will be spaced as far apart as possible
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices including all children being asked to wash their hands before leaving home (please!) and being required to wash their hands each time they enter the school from outside, in between other regulated times including lunch
- Increased regularity and thoroughness of cleaning in and around the school site
- minimising contact and mixing outside of prescribed groups
- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms.

The primary purpose of the limit on numbers is to minimise the number of children that any one child or teacher has contact with while in school. Although we will be endeavouring to keep pupils apart wherever possible in a controlled environment, the decision to send these year groups back has been made with the knowledge that social distancing is unlikely to be maintained. Our focus will be on keeping the groups of children consistent and separate from each other and maintaining good hygiene and cleanliness to stop transmission both within groups and between different teachers.

We will ensure that the same teacher(s) and other staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days.

I am worried my child is too close to another bubble or class.

Where we can keep children in their bubbles 2 metres away from each other, we will do so. While in general groups will be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is deemed to be low risk. We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, the government has taken this into account. These risks are reduced in schools by avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms, frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices, regular cleaning and minimising contact and mixing

How does the guidance apply in the Nursery?

Children should attend just one setting wherever possible.

The ratios under Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) continue to apply.

The key focus for our Nursery staff is to keep small groups of children apart, to reduce contact between groups of children and staff as far as possible. Social distancing within groups is not expected and clearly will not be achievable with this age group.

Other steps have been taken to reduce risk such as removing soft toys and furnishings that will be difficult to clean between groups. Where different children

attend at different times of the day, smaller groups may be needed to limit the number of children staff have contact with.

Does my child need to wear a face mask?

Unless Matron advises you otherwise, face coverings (or any form of medical mask) should **not** be worn, as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

Are there any restrictions for parents on the school site?

Parents are asked to ensure that you do not gather at the Portico or doors and you depart the school site as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child. Unfortunately, you will be unable to enter any school building or gather in the car park under our current arrangements. Whilst this goes against our philosophy, we hope you will understand why this is the case. You must know you are welcome in mind but not in body (just yet)!

What if my child is shielded and clinically vulnerable?

For the vast majority of children, coronavirus is a mild illness. If your child has been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions and has been advised to shield, we do not expect these children to be attending school. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

What is my child is living with a shielded or clinically vulnerable person?

If your child lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend Prince's Mead. If they live in a household with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, we ask that you contact Matron for further advice.

What if a child becomes unwell at Prince's Mead?

If any child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, Matron will be in touch with you and your child will be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance. When your child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, with appropriate adult supervision. If this does happen, your child will be cared for with the sensitivity and love that we pride ourselves on.

They should then self-isolate for 7 days and their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All pupils who are attending school will have access to a test if

they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

If a sibling child in one bubble displays symptoms, what happens to their sibling and those children of the separate bubble they are in?

When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and pupils will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child or member of staff tests positive, the rest of their bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise Prince's Mead on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole bubble, or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole School will not generally be necessary.

Who organises a test – Prince's Mead or parents?

If you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), you can ask for a test to check if you have the virus. This is called an antigen test. There is another type of test (antibody test) that checks if you've already had the virus. This test is not widely available yet. You need to get the test done in the first 5 days of having symptoms. You can ask for a test online and you will be asked how you want to get the test – you may be able to choose between driving to a regional testing site or getting a home test kit. You will also be asked for details such as your name, mobile phone number and address.

Who is eligible for a test?

You can ask for a test for yourself, if you have coronavirus symptoms now (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) or for someone you live with, if they have coronavirus symptoms

Will my child get a test?

There is very high demand for tests at the moment. People in hospital and essential workers, including NHS and social care staff, are getting priority. Even if you are

successful in requesting a test, the NHS cannot guarantee you will get one. It depends on how many tests are available each day in different parts of the country.

We have our test results – what do we do next?

Where your child tests negative, they can return to school and fellow household members can end their self-isolation. In the event your child tests positive, the rest of their class or group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

What if a child or member of staff tests positive?

Where a child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their bubble group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

Will contact tracing be in place at Prince's Mead?

The Government is developing a new national test and trace programme. This will bring together an app, expanded web and phone-based contact tracing, and swab testing for those with potential coronavirus symptoms. This programme will play an important role in helping to minimise the spread of coronavirus in the future. It will also include more traditional methods of contact tracing if a child or a parent tests positive. This could include, for example, direct discussion with parents and Prince's Mead on recent contacts. We will, of course, use all means at our disposal to mitigate the risks for pupils and staff, including tracing if this is feasible.

How do we take part in 'track and trace'?

An overview of the NHS test and trace service, including what happens if you test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive can be [found here](#).

What information does Prince's Mead plan to communicate to parents regarding any suspected and confirmed cases?

Whilst always respecting medical information of pupils, we will naturally inform parents if there has been a child displaying symptoms in your child's bubble so you can make an informed choice.

CURRICULUM

What lessons will my child be receiving?

We want to mirror your child's timetable as much as we can, albeit there have been some changes to ensure your child remains in a small group throughout the day, and to ensure we can deliver provision for on-site teaching, remote teaching and support

to children of key workers. Appropriate staff are in place and redeployed where necessary to ensure effective and safe provision for our pupils.

Can my child stay at home for remote learning all or some of the time?

Due to resourcing, from Monday 1st June we are not able to deliver both remote teaching and on-site teaching at Prince's Mead for those year groups who are scheduled to return. However, for those children who must stay at home due to health risks, we will endeavour to do all that we can to support them at home as much as possible.

Will my child be able to bring home reading books each day?

In order to prevent cross contamination between home and school, our Reading Scheme books will be allocated to your child as normal, however these books will remain at school. Additional time will be made by your child's teacher to listen to pupils read as much as possible to continue their reading journey.

If you are running low on Bug Club/Oxford Owl books, Hampshire Library Service are offering free e-books which can be accessed here.

Use of equipment.

Children inside a bubble will continue to use shared equipment but we have measures in place to ensure equipment is cleaned. Any video lessons pupils are tuning into will be via the interactive whiteboard in the classroom.

What stationery does my child need?

We ask that your child's stationery is placed into a named, re-sealable sandwich bag that will remain in school. They should contain:

Reception: colouring pencils, felt tips, glue stick, rubber and a sharpener (a writing pencil will be provided by school.)

Year 1: Stabilo writing pencil (as described on the school stationery list) colouring pencils, felt tips, glue stick, rubber and a sharpener.

Year 6: a fountain pen with spare cartridges, two pencils, sharpener, rubber, ruler and colouring pencils.

As ever, please also ensure that each item is clearly named.

Does my child require their school bag or book bag?

For Reception or Year 1, please bring everything your child requires into school on the 1st June within their bookbag, including their clearly named sunhat, sun cream and Forest School waterproof. Your child's bookbag will then remain in school, as the only item pupils will be transporting each day is their water bottle.

School bags are not required for Year 6 but they should bring in their water bottle daily (cleaned, washed and filled please), waterproof jacket, and reading book that will then remain in school as a school reading book.

Does my child require sports kit?

No, but where explicitly required, pupils will be allowed to bring in their own tennis rackets under the control of the Sports Department which will be cleaned thoroughly on arrival to school. Rackets can only be taken home at the end of each week

CURRICULUM

Will my child receive prep (homework)?

For those returning, all work will be initially undertaken at school.

EXTRAS

Will my child be receiving lunch?

As you can testify, lunch remains very close to our hearts at Prince's Mead. We will continue to provide hot meals for pupils but arrangements for lunch have changed to ensure this is done safely; including pupils being required to eat in their consistent groups.

Will wrap-around care be offered?

The reopening of wraparound care, whilst useful to you, currently presents significant challenges to the ability to operate safely and keeping children in their continuous groups. We will continue to review this situation, although it is highly unlikely that we will be able to offer additional clubs or activities for the remainder of this term. You will, however, be receiving clubs and activities choices for the Michaelmas term shortly.

Does my child need to wear school uniform?

Prince's Mead uniform is preferred but not essential. The most important thing is that your child comes into school each day with appropriate freshly-washed clothes. Please no fancy-dress, flip-flops et al!

Should my child take in their water bottle?

Your child should bring a named water bottle each day, filled from home. This should be taken home and washed every night.

Can we use the Prince's Mead facilities out of hours?

Unfortunately, in our efforts to reduce the risk of transmission at this time, the School grounds and its facilities are out of bounds for all activities in any area of the School out of hours.