

The
Portsmouth Academy

17 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It has been a long and strange Term 6 for all members of our school community during this time, so I would like to thank everyone again for their continued support.

As you may be aware, the Government released their guidance for opening to all year groups from September and we have been working very hard to reflect and plan for welcoming back all children in the new academic year.

We are now in a position to be able to share a summary of the principles for opening to all children in September.



As we prepare to increase our provision in school, we have been working closely with our Trust and following government advice to ensure the safest way to welcome back our students. As a school, we have successfully met the Government expectations for children returning to school based learning in Year 10. We are now in a position to apply similar principles to welcoming back all year groups.

The information here will help you understand how the return to school based learning will happen and answer some of the questions you may have.

As throughout the return to school based learning during Term 6, we will be continuing to work to our belief that Child First = Child Safe = Adult Safe. This has been the key principle that has guided our planning since lockdown began and we are pleased with how well it worked and was understood by everyone in our school community.

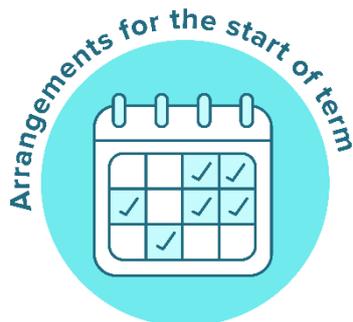
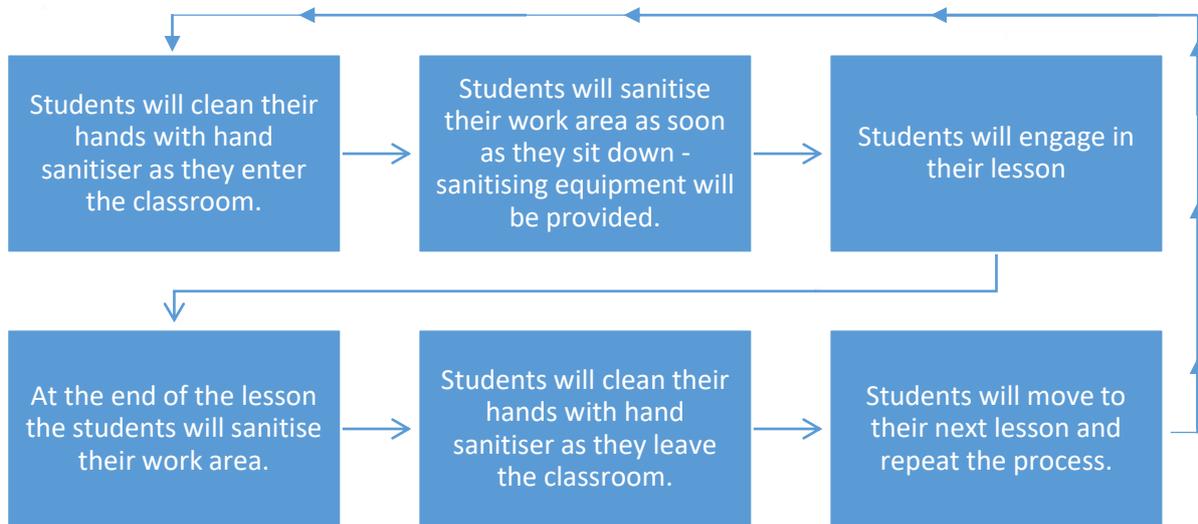
How will we achieve Child Safe?

At the heart of our strategy to keep everyone safe will be the concept of the Year Group Bubble. Children will be part of a consistent bubble, made up of their year group. At TPA we will combine Years 10 and 11 to be one bubble during break and lunchtimes only. This is predominately due to the smaller nature of Year 11 from September; they will not mix during lesson time.

To help manage the Year Group Bubbles we are introducing additional measures that will allow students to move from safe space to safe space throughout the day with their bubbles – this will be achieved through the protocol of 'Clean, Use, Clean'.



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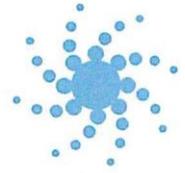


1. Arrangements for the start of term

We will provide a full time education provision for all children 5 days a week. The Government expect all children to return in September and we have planned carefully to ensure that we are able to welcome them all back safely.

To support our children and families to return to school we are operating a staggered return to start the new academic year. These Year group bubbles will return on the following days:

Friday 4 th September	Monday & Tuesday 7 th & 8 th September	Wednesday & Thursday 9 th & 10 th September	Friday 11 th September
Year 11 – Fresher’s Day Please see previous letter from Mr Andrews for more details	Year 7 Year 8 Year 11	Year 9 Year 10 Year 11 Year 7 & 8 to study remotely via assignments set on Teams	Year 7 Year 8 Year 9 Year 10 Year 11



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2. Arrangements for the school day:

To reduce the number of times students move around the school we will be operating a three-lesson school day, each lesson will be 100 minutes long.

To support social distancing students must enter and leave the school site through the entry / exit points outlined below:

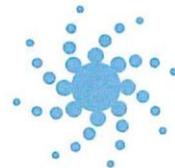
Year	Entry / Exit point	Time
7	Manor Road (back gate) – directed to MUGA 1	8:20-8:25
8	St Mary's Road entrance (by the new building) – directed to MUGA 2	8:25-8:30
9	Manor Road (back gate) – to move straight to period 1 lesson (first day to MUGA 1)	8:30-8:35
10	St Mary's Road entrance (by the new building) to move straight to period 1 lesson (first day to MUGA 2)	8:35-8.40
11	Reception entrance to go straight to lesson 1	8:45

At the start of the school day, students should go straight to their lesson 1 classroom.

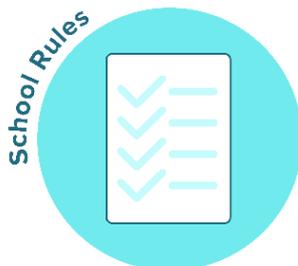
I must stress the importance of your child being punctual to school and entering at their allotted time and through the correct entrance. If students are late, they will potentially have to wait until all other year groups are cleared before they can enter the school.

There will be no whole school assemblies or external school trips taking place throughout the Autumn Term to ensure that we do not have large gatherings. We will continue to run virtual year and house assemblies through tutor time and PSHE, and will work to use any technology available to us to come together and 'visit' places virtually.

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered so that the Year Group Bubbles do not mix. There will be a limited break time menu in the canteen and therefore you may wish to provide your child with a healthy break snack to minimise queuing. We will be offering a hot meal option for lunchtime as usual, alternatively please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch.



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3. School Rules

When we return in September, we will expect our children to return in full school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity and school community. We recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners together and uniform is integral to this. Please be aware that the Simmonds Uniform shop is moving to Penhale School. This will open on the 17th August to 2nd September from 9am-3pm. You can also buy uniform from their online shop at www.simmonds-ltd.com.

All normal school rules will apply as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing. If students choose to ignore these expectations, the school will apply the normal range of sanctions. Our expectation is that students bring in their own stationery and equipment, in a plastic based pencil case.



4. Safety & Cleaning

Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan. This means regular deep cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, IT suites and toilets. We will put in place a “cleaning habit routine” at the start and end of every lesson in every classroom being used – see above.

Hand sanitiser will be the principal means of securing hand hygiene and will be available across the school.

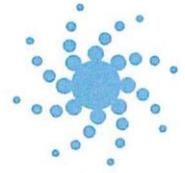
Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education. Therefore, facemasks are not to be worn in school.

As a result of these measures, we believe we will be able to provide a safe learning environment for your children and we look forward to welcoming them all back in September.

Managing Sickness & Reporting

Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

We are going beyond the government advice regarding Track & Trace to ensure the highest safety for our community. Therefore, any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested. In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health England and require all students identified as being within prolonged close proximity to the infected person to isolate for 14 days.



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Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, parents/carers, staff and governors for their support over the last term and indeed since the pandemic impacted on our usual ways of teaching and learning. Together we have overcome some great challenges and we are proud of what we have achieved, being one of only 2% of state schools who offered live learning opportunities for students from the beginning of the period of lockdown.

Should there be any further changes to Government guidance over the summer break, we will of course respond as best as we can, however in the meantime, I would like to thank you again and wish you a safe and restful summer break.

I hope you have found this update useful. If there are any changes required to the start dates for different year groups, we will update you as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Grey
Principal