

FAQs – Return to School in September

General questions about school return

Will the children be returning to school full time in September?

Yes, unless government guidance changes. All Y1-Y6 children may attend full time from **Tuesday 8th September**. On the first two days of term, only half of each class will come in to get used to the new routines (Group B – Friday 4th Sept; Group A – Monday 7th Sept).

Will there be keyworker provision in September?

No. As children will be in school full time from 8th September, there is no need for key worker provision.

How do I communicate with the class teacher about my child's medical needs before the start of term?

All care plans will be passed on to class teachers and Mrs Ward in the school office is in the process of contacting parents to ensure that these are up to date. However, if your child has particular medical needs which means you would usually have a direct conversation with the class teacher prior/near to the start of term, please email the admin office email in the last week of the holiday to request a phone call from the class teacher at the start of term (adminoffice@whiteley.hants.sch.uk).

Questions about New Reception (YR)

I have a child starting in YR who is in group A and an older child in group B – does this matter?

No – the group A and Bs for Y1-6 children are *only* in use for the first two days of term when YR children won't have yet started.

What are the arrangements for dropping off older siblings if we also have children in YR?

Once YR children start school, their drop off will be between 8.45 and 9.15am initially. Please note the following information for dropping older siblings:

- Y1 siblings – please come to through the office gate and go to YR at the start of the YR drop off at 8.45am – Y1 siblings can enter through the door from the YR outdoor classroom which goes directly into the Y1 cloakrooms.
- Y2 siblings – come through the office gate and drop your Y2 child at the front door towards the end of the drop off window just before 8.45am and then continue round to the YR classrooms, keeping left.
- Y3 siblings – drop your Y3 child at the office door between 8.45-9am and then continue round to the YR classrooms, keeping left.
- Y4-6 siblings will be expected to come onto site independently through the main gate.

What are the arrangements for collecting older siblings if we also have children in YR?

Collections for YR children will be between 2.45 and 3.15am initially. Please note the following information for collecting older siblings:

- Y1 siblings – please let the class teacher know (via email) if you will be collecting YR and Y1 children. Please go to the Y1 collection at the rear of the school just before 3pm. YR siblings will be brought round to the Y1 outdoor classroom for 3pm so that they can be collected together.
- Y2/3 siblings – collect your YR child from the classroom first (just before your Y2/3 child's collection time) and then re-join the office path to go through the gym to collect your Y2/3 child.
- Y4-6 siblings will be expected to leave the site independently through the main gate and meet you away from the school entrance.

When will we be confirming the drop off/pick up times for YR children?

We will contact YR parents by the end of the first week of term (Friday 11th September) if there need to be any changes to the drop off/pick up arrangements for YR. This is because YR will be using the same gate as Y2 and Y3 children/parents and until we have seen the system working over the first few days, we can not be sure of the capacity of this date to manage the numbers.

Questions about morning drop off – Y1-6

Can I drop older siblings at the classroom door in the mornings as I'm walking my Y1 child to their classroom between 8.30 and 8.45am?

Yes you may. You must stay together as a family group as you come through the gate and walk through the grounds. As you pass the entrance/steps to the older sibling's classroom, the child should go straight to the classroom door. Y2 children may be taken up the steps by the music room and dropped at their patio door. Parents must not go up to the Y3-6 patios. As the drop off for Y3-5 children is from 8.45am, we would ask that Y1 parents dropping older siblings aim for later in the Y1 time slot, although teachers will open the patio doors slightly earlier for children to go straight into the classroom, carry out their hand washing routine and then begin their independent morning work a little earlier than the rest of the class.

Can my Y3 child walk on to the school site independently with a Y6 sibling?

Yes, but **only** from the **back gate** as Y3 children are permitted to enter independently through this gate. Y3/6 siblings arriving together should come no earlier than 8.40am through the back gate and go straight to the classroom patio doors. If the Y6 child wishes to use the main front gates, we would suggest that they both arrive at the end of the drop off time at 8.45am so that the Y3 sibling can go straight to the office gate and walk in through the front door.

Questions about afternoon pick-ups – Y1-6

Can I collect a Y2 or Y3 child when I come onto site to collect a Y1 sibling?

Yes. Y2 children with Y1 siblings can be collected from the classroom patio door during the same 'window' of collection to Y1s (2.45-3pm) – collect from the Y2 patio first, using the steps outside the library from the piazza and the steps down in front of the Y1 outdoor classroom fence. If collecting a Y3 sibling, please arrive no earlier than **2.55pm**. You may go up the steps outside the Y3 classrooms to collect from the classroom patio door, then continue along the patio and use the slope down to the piazza outside the music room to join the class line for Y1 collection. Please note that although we will initially be permitting collection of Y3s at the same time as Y1s, this may be reviewed over time.

Can I collect a Y4 child when I come on to site to collect a Y1/2/3 sibling?

No. We are expecting our Y4-6 children to leave independently from the school site and be met outside the school grounds. Their finish times are later and early collection is likely to be more disruptive to the coverage of the curriculum. We appreciate that this may mean some parents having to wait away from the site between pick-ups which is not ideal, but this is a system which many infant/junior schools already operate. We will be reviewing the arrangements in the first few weeks and if we are able to 'narrow' the windows for collection safely, or provide an alternative solution, we will do so.

Other questions about drop off/pick ups

Are younger siblings permitted when dropping off/collecting children?

Where this is unavoidable to bring younger siblings, you must stay as a close family group and toddlers/pre-schoolers in particular must be kept in close contact e.g. hand held/reins etc. Please note that it will not be possible to bring buggies into the YR outdoor classroom and these must be left by the YR bike racks when dropping off/collecting.

Are children allowed to bring their bikes/scooters through the Rookery Avenue entrance, and if so, where should they leave them?

Provided bikes are walked once they reach the school site (including on the boardwalk), children may bring them through the rear entrance. At the end of the slope from the all-weather pitch, they should turn right and follow the one-way system past the greenhouse to the bike racks. Once they have left their bike, they can then re-join the one-way system to their classroom, keeping right.

Can children in Y2/3 who are being dropped at the office gate bring bikes to school?

Yes – they can either leave them at the bike racks near YR (crossing the path carefully to avoid parents leaving the site) or parents can walk the bike along the path past the gym to leave them at the bike racks next to the basketball court once they have dropped their child, exiting through the main gate – from here, bikes will be easier to collect at the end of the day as the exit is from the rear of the gym.

Questions about provision

Will PE kits be needed in September?

Yes, the children will need their PE kits in September as they will be returning to twice weekly PE sessions. Kits can be kept in school for the half term.

Will instrumental music lessons be going ahead in September?

Hampshire Music Service (HMS) are still waiting for updated guidance on when the group instrumental lessons will be able to restart although we have received the timetable and they are hoping to commence as soon as permitted. Where possible, we will be grouping children with those from their own year group to avoid mixing ‘bubbles’. HMS have always provided a minimum of 30 instrumental lessons per year for the annual charge and therefore, if children receive fewer than 30 lessons over the year, we will provide a partial refund for parents who have made their contribution.

Class music lessons will still be taking place. Plans are being adapted as guidance does not currently permit singing in groups of 30. There will be an emphasis on listening and appraising, as well as use of body percussion. Instruments will be cleaned or quarantined between use by different bubbles.

How will after-school clubs be managed?

Initially, we will not be having any clubs straight after school other than Timeout Childcare. Once we have reviewed the end of the day arrangements, we hope to introduce clubs later in the term, keeping them for single year group bubbles to avoid mixing, and also due to the staggered finish times, as we will not have the capacity for children to be waiting around after school for other year groups to finish. Clubs run by outside providers which happen later in the day may be able to start up providing there is an adequate risk assessment and time/resource to ensure appropriate cleaning of the spaces/equipment before and after use. We will be reviewing the situation over the term and keeping you informed. Please be aware that until there is further guidance about singing in schools, the choirs will not be able to run.

Will an alternative be arranged to replace the residential trip to Stubbington Study Centre which was missed?

This is unlikely. Residential centres are booked up for a long period in advance even in normal circumstances. It is highly unlikely that we would be able to secure a booking for a year group of 90 and we would also be reluctant to book ahead at this point as they are still not permitted under the guidance. However, we are currently looking at the possibility of a day trip to Stubbington Study Centre for Y5 instead during the Autumn term.

Will parent volunteers be permitted in school?

We are hoping to re-introduce our parent volunteers later in September, once we have reviewed the guidance for them. They will need to follow the risk assessments in place in school and will be limited to working within one year group 'bubble', or in the case of those who carry out paired reading, individually talked through the measures in place to minimise the risk to themselves and pupils.