



The Mall School

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Return to school control measures

The following document outlines in detail the control measures the school is putting in place for reopening from the start of the autumn term. This should be read in conjunction with the risk assessment (available on the school's website) and the information booklet for your son's year group.

There will be a series of Zoom meetings before the end of the summer holiday where you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the measures the school has put in place.

- 5.00 p.m. Monday 24th August: Reception to Year 2.
- 5.00 p.m. Tuesday 25th August: Year 3 and 4.
- 5.00 p.m. Wednesday 26th August: Year 5 and 6.

Introduction

The school has in place a system of protective measures based on the latest government guidance that are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and are outlined in more detail in the sections below.

Prevention

Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have tested positive in the last 7 days.

Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if they have travelled to a country on the government's quarantine list within the last fourteen days.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow the 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'. They must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If a child with symptoms is awaiting collection, he will be moved to a room where he can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision. Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate him, he will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If he needs to go to the bathroom, while waiting to be collected, he will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child). The school will follow the guidance contained in the 'Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)'.

As is usual practice, in an emergency, we will call 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Anyone with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms, and any pupils who have been in close contact with him, do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. The area around the person with symptoms must be cleaned with normal household bleach after they have left to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. The school will follow the 'COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings' guidance.

Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an easy virus to kill when it is on skin. This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. The school will ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Hand sanitiser is available in all teaching spaces and the boys in Reception to Year 3 have access to wash basins in their classrooms.

Ensure good respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and we will ensure that there are enough tissues and bins available in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine. As with hand cleaning, we will ensure younger children are helped to get this right, and all pupils understand that this is part of how the school operates.

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. 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. Face coverings are required at all times on public transport (for children over the age of 11) or when attending a hospital as a visitor or outpatient.

Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach

The school will continue to put in place an enhanced cleaning schedule that includes:

- more frequent cleaning of rooms and shared areas that are used by different groups;
- frequently touched surfaces cleaned more often than normal;

- toilets cleaned more frequently and pupils reminded to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet.

The school will follow the guidance provided by Public Health England for cleaning non-healthcare settings.

Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible

The school will do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The overarching principle is to reduce the number of contacts between children and staff. This will be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals. Boys will be grouped in one of three 'bubbles' Reception to Year 2; Year 3 and 4; or Year 5 and 6. Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the bubble.

The bubbles will be kept apart as far as possible by: having staggered start and finish times to the day; remaining in their classrooms for most subjects; having separate spaces for break and lunchtimes; using the dining hall at different times; having separate games afternoons and assemblies.

Where possible we will encourage boys to maintain social distancing but we recognise that this is not always possible with younger children.

We recognise that siblings may also be in different groups. Endeavouring to keep these groups at least partially separate and minimising contacts between children will still offer public health benefits, as it reduces the network of possible direct transmission.

All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. Where staff need to move between classes and year groups, they should try to keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, ideally two metres from other adults. Again, we recognise this is not likely to be possible with younger children.

Maintaining a distance between people while inside and reducing the amount of time they are in face to face to contact lowers the risk of transmission. In particular, staff should avoid close face-to-face contact and minimise time spent within one metre of anyone. In most classrooms, this will be achieved by seating pupils side by side and facing forwards.

Through timetabling, groups will be kept apart and movement around the school site kept to a minimum. While passing briefly in the corridor or playground is low risk, the school will avoid creating busy corridors, entrances and exits through staggered start and finish times and operating a one-way system in parts of the school.

Use of the staff room will be minimised, although staff will still have breaks of a reasonable length during the day.

When arriving at school, parents and boys are asked to follow the one-way system by the Waterfield building. Boys can then enter the school through the theatre lobby where their temperature will be checked. At the end of the day, parents are asked to wait - socially distanced - in the same area to collect their sons. Parents are respectfully asked not to gather by the school gates and only to come onto the site if they have an appointment.

If a boy arrives at school wearing a face covering, he will be asked to remove it. He will be instructed not to touch the front of his face covering during use or when removing it. He must dispose of the face covering in a covered bin and then wash his hands (as is the case for all pupils).

Peripatetic teachers for music, occupational therapy, speech and language, confidence in communication etc. can move between schools. The school will inform them that they must minimise contact with, and maintain as much distance as possible from, other staff. The school will ensure site guidance on physical distancing and hygiene is explained to visitors on or before arrival and a record will be kept of all visitors.

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, staff and pupils will have their own items that are not shared. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble; but these should be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.

Outdoor playground equipment will be more frequently cleaned. This will also apply to resources used inside and outside by after school club providers. It is recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials such as hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones (for boys who are travelling by public transport). Bags are allowed. Pupils and teachers can take books home.

Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

The majority of staff will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases, including:

- where an individual child becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at schools, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained;
- where a child already has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used.

The school will follow the guidance on 'Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care' for more information about preventing and controlling infection, including when and how PPE should be used, and what type of PPE to use.

Travel to and from school

The school will be offering a morning and after school minibus service. Please contact Ms Lorna Kane (clubs@themallschool.org.uk) for more details.

Attendance

It is important that all boys return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. The majority of pupils will be able to return to school however there may be a small number of pupils who will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves; or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).

Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

If rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent.

Some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in the 'COVID-19 - shielding guidance for children and young people'.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice the school will offer him access to remote education.

All other pupils must attend school. We recognise the potential concerns of some pupils, parents and households who may be reluctant or anxious about returning. This may include pupils who have been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary, those living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable, or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or who have certain conditions such as obesity and diabetes.

If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned, we ask that you contact the school to discuss your concerns so we can provide reassurance regarding the measures we are putting in place to reduce the risk in school.

School workforce

Following the reduction in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and relaxation of shielding measures from 1 August, we expect all staff will attend school.

Individuals who were considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable, and received a letter advising them to shield, are now advised that they can return to work from 1 August as long as they maintain social distancing. Advice for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable can be found in the guidance on 'Shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19'.

Staff who fall into the clinically extremely vulnerable group should speak to the Headmaster or Bursar about how they can be deployed either by working remotely or in roles in school where it is possible to maintain social distancing.

People who live with those who are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable can attend the workplace.

As a general principle, pregnant women are in the clinically vulnerable category and are advised to follow the relevant guidance available for clinically vulnerable people.

Some people with particular characteristics may be at comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), as set out in the 'COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes' report. The reasons are complex and there is ongoing research to understand and translate these findings for

individuals. If staff with significant risk factors are concerned, they should discuss these with the school so we can explain the measures the school is putting in place to reduce risks. The school will try as far as practically possible to accommodate additional measures where appropriate.

People who live with those who have comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) can attend the workplace.

Extra-curricular provision

The school will resume breakfast and after-school provision from the start of the autumn term. Where possible after school clubs will keep boys in their bubbles. If it is not possible to maintain bubbles being used during the school day then the school will use small, consistent groups.

The school will follow the guidance contained in 'Protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak'. Parents are advised to limit, as far as possible, the number of different wraparound providers they access. Where parents use childcare providers or out of school activities for their children, we would encourage you to seek assurance that the providers are carefully considering their own protective measures, and only use those providers that can demonstrate these are in place. As with physical activity during the school day, contact sports should not take place.

Music

The school will reduce the risk of infection, when pupils are playing instruments or singing in small groups, through physical distancing and playing outside wherever possible; limiting group sizes to no more than fifteen; positioning pupils back-to-back or side-to-side; avoiding sharing of instruments; and ensuring good ventilation. Singing, wind and brass playing will not take place in larger groups such as school choirs and ensembles, or school assemblies.

Physical activity

For physical education, swimming and games lessons pupils will be kept in consistent groups; sports equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups; and contact sports avoided. Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible (including the use of Sunbury Cricket Club), and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maximising distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene. The school will follow the advice contained in 'Guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation', 'Guidance for grassroots sport' from Sport England, and advice from organisations such as the Association for Physical Education and the Youth Sport Trust.

Pupil wellbeing and support

The school recognises that pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. It is important to understand these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. Some may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be keen and ready to return to school.

Boys returning to school allows social interaction with peers and teachers, which benefits wellbeing. This was evident from the overwhelmingly positive response from boys who were able to return to school in the summer term.

The school will use the provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities for all pupils to:

- support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement
- address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19)
- support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing

More focused pastoral support will be provided where issues are identified that individual pupils may need help with. Where necessary and available the school will draw on external support such as the school nursing services to support the health and wellbeing of our pupils.

Response to any infection

Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

All staff and parents must ensure they understand the NHS Test and Trace process and how to contact their local Public Health England health protection team. Staff and parents must understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents if using a home testing kit;
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace;
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education, have priority access to testing.

The government will ensure that it is as easy as possible to get a test through a wide range of routes that are locally accessible, fast and convenient. By the autumn term, all schools will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that they can give directly to parents collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school, or staff who have developed symptoms at school, where they think providing one will significantly increase the likelihood of them being tested. Advice will be provided alongside these kits.

Parents and staff must inform us immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case they should remain at home until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell or taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high

temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

We will take swift action by contacting the local health protection team if we become aware that someone who has attended the school has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). Alternatively, the local health protection team will also contact the school directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

The health protection team will work with the school in this situation to guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on the advice from the health protection team, we will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within one metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin);
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within one to two metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual;
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person.

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home. To support them in doing so, the school will keep a record of pupils and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes places between children and staff in different groups). This will be a proportionate recording process. Pupils do not have to record everyone they have spent time with each day nor will staff be asked to keep definitive records in a way that is overly onerous.

On the advice of the health protection team, a letter will be sent to parents and staff if needed. The school will not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow the advice in 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'. They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform the school immediately, and must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following 'Stay at

home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection’.

The school will not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children after a period of self-isolation.

Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

If the school has two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, this may indicate an outbreak. The school will continue to work with our local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required. The health protection team may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure.

In consultation with the local Director of Public Health, where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person’s class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary, in line with routine public health outbreak control practice.

Contingency planning for outbreaks

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that results in localised community spread, the appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice.

In the event of a local outbreak, the Public Health England health protection team or local authority may advise the school or number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission. If this were to happen the school would provide remote education for all pupils.