



Frequently Asked Questions – Summer term 2021

Red text indicates information amended from previous versions of our FAQs which has specific relevance to the start of the Summer term 2021

What is the government guidance about schools from the start of the Summer term 2021?

- Updated guidance was published following the government's announcement on 24 February 2021 of the full reopening of schools in England from 8 March 2021.
- The guidance is clear that all schools in England are open to all pupils and that school attendance is mandatory.
- Given the period of eight weeks between the government's announcement and the start of the Summer term – and that school attendance is mandatory – we expect all boys to return to Summer Fields on 21 April 2021.

Is there different guidance for independent schools and state schools?

- No. The government is clear that all schools should follow the same control measures detailed in their guidance.

What are our three guiding principles for the Summer term 2021?

1. To uphold the welfare, health and safety of all the Summer Fields community.
2. To operate a normal Summer Fields education and routine in so far as it is possible to do so, knowing that there will continue to be some restriction on certain activities and changes to routine which will be required for some time yet.
3. To react swiftly and adhere closely to any changes in guidance from the UK Government, Public Health England and Oxfordshire County Council; to monitor information and advice from professional organisations as well as sharing best practice with other prep schools locally and nationally.

What is the law relating to travelling to England at this time?

- Please be aware that regulations relating to entry to England and quarantine are national laws, not Summer Fields rules; we have no power to set them aside.
- Before boys return to school, parents will be required to certify that they have followed any relevant government requirements with respect to travel and quarantine.
- Please note;
 - Any boy in a 'red list' country cannot travel to the UK at this time unless they are a UK national or have residence rights; in this case, quarantine must be undertaken in a government approved hotel - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transport-measures-to-protect-the-uk-from-variant-strains-of-covid-19>.
 - If a boy is not travelling from a 'red list' country, they still have to quarantine on arrival for ten days; this period of quarantine cannot be undertaken at school - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england>.
 - Quarantine can be reduced to five days' duration if the Test to Release scheme is used - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel>.
 - Wherever a boy is travelling from, they must have a negative COVID-19 test up to three days before their arrival in England -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england>.

Will Summer Fields facilitate quarantine on the school site before the start of the Summer term 2021?

- No. We are not in a position to accommodate pupils coming from overseas who are required to serve any applicable period of quarantine at Summer Fields on their arrival in England either before or following the start of the Summer term.
- Given the period of eight weeks' notice of the full reopening of schools to all pupils and the start of the Summer term (i.e. from the government announcement of 24 February to 21 April) it is our expectation that the families of all boys make the necessary arrangements which will enable their son/s to attend school in person from 21 April 2021.
- The family of any boy who is required by law to quarantine on their arrival in England will need to make preparations to look after their son/s themselves or – if they are unable to do so – to make official arrangements with guardians (communicated to the school).

What educational support will be available for pupils who do not return to school at the start of the Summer term 2021?

- Government guidance is clear that school attendance in person is mandatory for all pupils.
- There will be no online teaching or remote educational resources available to boys who do not return to school at the start of the Summer term 2021.

What educational support will be available for pupils who have to self-isolate as a result of having symptoms of COVID-19; OR having tested positive for COVID-19; OR having been identified as a close contact of another person pupil who has tested positive for COVID-19?

- A hybrid form of remote teaching will be made available to boys who have to self-isolate from school if they:
 - Exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Test positive for COVID-19.
 - Are identified as a close-contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The hybrid form of remote learning available to boys having to self-isolate as a result of any of the three circumstances outlined above will involve:
 - Virtual, live 'attendance' at timetabled curriculum lessons (except Private Study, PE, swimming and games).
 - Lessons will be broadcast live from the classroom via Zoom. Please note, lessons will not be recorded and links to recordings will not be uploaded on Firefly retrospectively.
- This hybrid form of remote learning will ONLY be available to boys who are absent due to self-isolation as a result of having symptoms of COVID-19; testing positive for COVID-19; or having been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It will not be available to boys absent from school for any other reason (e.g. as a result of an illness other than COVID-19; absence from school from 21 April due to travel difficulties, etc.).

Will curriculum time be reduced?

- No. As per government guidelines, the amount of academic teaching time will remain the same as in a normal school day.
- Staggered drop off and collection times have been organised through changes to break times and the timing of other school routines.

Will the curriculum spread be altered?

- No. The curriculum spread will remain unchanged, as will the amount of academic teaching time for each subject area.

When will the 2021 Summer term begin?

- Wednesday 21 April is the first day of the Summer term. As school attendance is mandatory and there was a period of eight weeks' notice from the government's announcement of the full reopening of schools and 21 April, we expect all boys to return to Summer Fields on this date (having served any applicable period of quarantine).
- The Pre-prep will operate a normal school day on Wednesday 21 April, following the drop-off times in operation at the end of the Lent term.
- Each year the first day of the Summer term in the prep school begins at lunch time. The timings for arrival of each year group 'bubble' on Wednesday 21 April is given in the table below.
- Please note the longer window available for the return of boarders in each year group, with day boys scheduled to arrive in the second half of the period set aside for their 'bubble'.
- Please note that day boy collection timings in the prep school on Wednesday 21 April will be the same as in operation on Wednesdays at the end of the Lent term 2021, i.e. Year 4 – 3.25pm; Year 5 – 3.35pm; Year 6 – 3.45pm; Year 7 – 3.55pm; Year 8 – 4.05pm.

Year group	Timings for drop-off on Wednesday 21 April	
	Boarders	Day boys
4	12.15pm-12.45pm	12.30pm-12.45pm
5	12.00pm-12.30pm	12.15pm-12.30pm
6	11.45am-12.15pm	12.00pm-12.15pm
7	11.15am-12.00pm	11.45am-12.00pm
8	11.00am-11.45pm	11.30am-11.45pm

Are there any particular things I should be aware of when I arrive for the start of the Summer term?

- Please follow the timings for arrival at the start of term your son has been allotted.
- Each boy should be accompanied to school by only one parent or guardian.
- Where possible, face coverings should be worn during the period of drop-off; parents will not be able to enter the boarding lodges.
- Principles of social distancing should be observed at all times

My son is coming to school in a taxi or with a driver; is there anything I need to do?

- Your son should wear a face covering for the journey to school and use hand-sanitiser and suitable wipes on entering and exiting the vehicle.

Can parents or other relatives enter the school buildings?

- No. Until further notice parents will not be able to enter any school building during term time. This includes lodges.
- In the case of an emergency, the toilets at either end of the Red Pavilion are available for use by parents dropping off/collecting their sons from school.

Will there be in person parent-teacher meetings or parents' receptions?

- No, until further notice parents will not be able to enter any school building which means that face to face meetings to discuss your son's progress will not be possible for the time being.
- This will be kept under review at each stage of the government's roadmap out of lockdown; however, until changes to operating procedures are confirmed, the routines outlined in this document will remain in operation.

Will there be Year 8 mock exams in the Summer term?

- Yes. There will be a series of formal mock exams for boys in Year 8 in the first full week of the Summer term.

Will instrumental music, LAMDA and additional language lessons be available?

- Yes. There will be in person tuition for boys physically on the school site who ordinarily attend instrumental music, LAMDA and additional language lessons.
- Please note, these lessons will only be available to boys physically present at Summer Fields.

Will Learning Support lessons be available?

- Yes. Learning Support lessons will be taught to all pupils who ordinarily attend them.
- Please note, Learning Support lessons will only be available to boys physically present at Summer Fields.

Will sport be part of the school day?

- Yes. In addition to PE, swimming and games lessons in the curriculum, there will also be additional tennis and golf lessons for boys physically on the school site who ordinarily attend them.
- The organisation of curriculum sport will reflect the rules as outlined by the governing bodies of each specific sport.
- Use of the changing rooms and the operation of games will be managed to limit the interaction of 'bubbles'.
- Different 'bubbles' will not be able to play sport together.
- In PE, outdoor (non-contact) activities will be prioritised wherever possible.
- Curriculum swimming will take place under the procedures in operation during the second halves of the Michaelmas term 2020 and the Lent term 2021.

Will there be sports fixtures to spectate, match tea and Wednesday Tea?

- Plans are being made for sports fixtures in the Summer term 2021 which comply with relevant, sport-specific regulations.
- Transport – and the need to maintain social distancing when travelling to and from match venues – will be significant limiting factors on the timing and number of fixtures arranged.
- If and when fixtures do take place, until further notice it will remain the case that there will be no spectators allowed on the school site. At the start of the Summer term current rules relating to social distancing and non-essential travel will still apply and there will no non-essential visits to the school site by parents.
- It will therefore also not be possible to take boarders out of school on Wednesday afternoons following the conclusion of games commitments.
- This will be kept under review at each stage of the government's roadmap out of lockdown; however, until changes to operating procedures are confirmed, the routines outlined in this document will remain in place.

Will Year 8 boys be allowed into Summertown for 'privilege'?

- No, Year 8 boys will not be allowed to visit the Summertown shops for privilege in the Summer term 2021.

Will there be any school trips in the Summer term 2021?

- No, there will be no trips off-site in the Summer term 2021.

Will my son need any additional equipment for attending school?

- All boys will be required to bring in a clean and clearly labelled water bottle. Boys will be required to take these home or to their lodges at the end of each day so that they can be washed and ready for the next day. Water fountains will be switched off and instead water stations will be available for boys to use to fill up water bottles during the day.
- Pre-prep pupils will be provided with all the academic equipment they require.
- Prep school pupils will need to bring a fully stocked pencil case to school with them, including calculator.
- Boys Must NOT borrow stationery or sports equipment from each other. It is essential all equipment and kit is CLEARLY named.

What hygiene protocols will my son be required to undertake?

- All boys – boarders and day – will have their temperature taken each morning on arrival at school.
- Each boy will be expected to wash their hands very regularly for at least 20 seconds.
- Pre-prep pupils will use classroom supplies of hand sanitiser when required.
- Prep school pupils will be expected to bring a pocket-sized bottle of hand sanitiser that can be refilled for their personal use. They will be expected to carry it at all times. Refill stations will be available in school and the lodges.
- Training for all boys on matters of hygiene, social distancing and logistics will continue.
- Boys will wash their hands with soap and water on every occasion they enter the school buildings; before break snacks; before lunch; and after each visit to the loos.
- Boys in Year 7 and Year 8 and staff must wear masks when moving around the prep school as they did at the end of the Lent term.
- Where boys in Year 7 and 8 and prep school staff are unable to maintain social distancing in classrooms, masks must also be worn.
- Boys in other years are allowed to wear masks should they wish to do so, but this is not compulsory. Any coverings must be disposable or, if reusable cloth/fabric-types, they should be plain coloured and should be washed daily either at home or in the lodges.

In addition the school will adopt the following measures:

- Electric blow-dry hand driers will be switched off and paper towels introduced for the drying of hands across the school, including lodges.
- Hand sanitisers and hygiene wipes will be available in every classroom and at every entrance and exit to school buildings.
- Classrooms and equipment used by pupils will be cleaned and sanitised regularly during the day in addition to the usual morning and evening cleaning protocols already in place. Classrooms and furniture will be laid out with this in mind.
- We will provide covered spaces outside to provide greater flexibility for boys to meet safely under cover.
- Disposable cups and plates will be reintroduced in the lodges.

How will school routines be different to normal?

- Drop-off and collection arrangements will continue to be staggered for day boys at the start and end of each day.
- **Assemblies and chapel services will continue to be held (in line with government guidance).**
- **Groups or 'bubbles' (see below) will, at times, be able to attend the same whole-school event but they will be kept socially distanced whilst doing so.**
- Where 'bubbles' are unable to attend events in person they will participate remotely in their form rooms.
- Boys will be arranged in 'bubbles' in line with government guidance. Maintaining 'bubbles' – distinct groups which do not mix – makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to (a) identify pupils who need to self-isolate and (b) keep that number as small as possible.
- 'Bubbles' will be organised to enable the provision of specialist teaching, a full curriculum and the management of practical logistics such as the serving and eating of meals.
- 'Bubbles' will be kept apart from each other where possible. Children will be encouraged to keep their distance within their groups.
- Movement around the school will be managed in order to lower the risk of transmission between working groups. Signs and floor markings will be in corridors, classrooms and stairwells to indicate the direction of movement for all pupils. There will also be signs to indicate the areas that are out of bounds to boys.
- We will keep the timetable and structure of the day as similar as possible to normal, but timings will be adjusted to keep groups apart in what are normally shared spaces such as the Dining Room and changing rooms.
- Lessons will be taught as normal. Where boys in Year 7 and 8 and prep school staff are unable to maintain social distancing in classrooms, masks must be worn.
- Whilst government guidelines recognise that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, older boys will be encouraged to do so as much as possible; staff will continue to socially distance from boys at all times, unless certain contexts make this impossible, i.e. protection of a child from harm.

Will my son be able to board?

- Yes. We are looking forward to boarders returning to school.
- Under the government guidelines, each lodge will be classified as a household. Therefore they will not be required to socially distance within their lodge, though they will be encouraged to be sensible in their interactions with one another.
- Within the dormitories in each boarding house the boys will be encouraged to keep to their own bed areas. Lodge parents will ensure good ventilation in the dormitories and boys' beds will be spaced as much as is practically possible.
- Bathrooms will continue to be shared facilities, but shower and toilet cubicles will be designated for use by individual dormitories.
- Staff will only enter the lodge that they are attached to.
- All overseas boarders, or those whose parents regularly travel abroad, are required to have suitable guardianship arrangements in place. Parents must ensure that a guardian is able to act on behalf of the parents in the event of an emergency (for example, to receive the child into their home in case of illness or if there is a requirement to isolate).
- **As detailed above, we are not in a position to arrange for pupils travelling from overseas to serve any applicable period of quarantine at Summer Fields on their arrival in England either before or following the start of the Summer term. Given the period of eight weeks' notice of the full reopening of schools to all pupils and the start of the Summer term (24 February to 21 April) it is our expectation that the families of boarders who are required by law to quarantine on their arrival in England make the necessary arrangements which will enable**

their son/s to attend school in person from 21 April 2021, using official guardianship arrangements (communicated to the school) if they are unable to look after their son/s themselves.

Will boarders be able to go home for Weekend Leave?

- Yes. The guidelines continue to allow for boys living in a lodge classified as a household to return to their family home during term time (in the same way as day boys will each night). Children in boarding schools will be judged as belonging to two households, one at school and one at home. Such arrangements allow for Weekend Leave.
- Routines with regard to collection and return to school for Weekend Leave will continue to operate as they did during the end of the Lent term 2021.
- Times for collection for Weekend Leave will be similar to those which were in operation at the end of the Lent term 2021.
- The first and last weekends of the Summer term – 24 and 25 April and 3 and 4 July – are 'closed' weekends. There will be no opportunity for boarders to be booked out for Weekend Leave on these days.
- The last day of the Summer term will be Wednesday 7 July.

Will Summer Fields accommodate boys at school during Short and Long Leaves?

- No. We are not in a position to accommodate boys when the school is officially closed before the start of term; the end of term; or during Short and Long Leaves.
- Families will need to make preparations to look after their son/s themselves during Short and Long Leaves or – if they are unable to do so – to make official arrangements with guardians (communicated to the school).

Will it be possible to request absence for my son for medical appointments?

- We ask that requests for absence for medical appointments are kept to a minimum in this period and that parents arrange appointments for the May Long Leave holiday or Short Leave weekends.
- Requests for absence in the Pre-prep should be directed to Karen Watterson (Pre-prep Secretary) via PREPREPSECRETARY@summerfields.com; requests for absence in the prep school should be directed to Erinn Bradley (PA to the Deputy Heads) in the first instance via EMB@summerfields.com.

Will parents be able to see sons who are boarding on the day of their son's birthday?

- No. This will be kept under review but until a change in our operating procedures is confirmed it will remain the case that parents will be unable to make non-essential visits to the school site.

How will the medical centre deal with suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19?

- Hobson's will be manned 24-hours a day as normal; the nursing team have a plentiful stock of PPE equipment and appropriate isolation facilities (should these be required).
- Hobson's staff will automatically be alerted to any high temperatures recorded as pupils arrive at school each morning.
- In the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 the staff in Hobson's will follow the government and Public Health England guidelines that are in operation at that time.
- Details on testing for boys in Year 7 and Year 8 over the Easter holiday have been sent to parents of boys in these age groups by Sister Maggie.
- Please contact the medical centre via sister@summerfields.com or 01865 459 216 with any queries or questions you have about your son's health.

Will there be any external validation of the measures put in place by the school?

- Yes. Although we are confident in working to the highest standards in relation to the health, safety and wellbeing of the school community and in carrying extensive risk assessment of all processes and systems related to Covid-19, we have gained recognition for the measures we have put in place through the Boarding Schools' Association's "Covid-Safe Charter".

As a school we have, at all times, taken COVID-19 extremely seriously throughout this crisis. We are committed to adhering closely to evolving government guidance and all decisions we arrive at continue to be made in the best interests of the health, safety, pastoral and academic development of our pupils and the wider school community.

All our plans will be kept under constant review and will be adapted and added to as further guidance is issued.