



**St. Michael's V.A. Junior School**  
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Head Teacher  
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Week ending 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the half term break fast approaching, I am writing with a few important things to consider during these uncertain times.

**Remote Learning** (home learning in the event of not being able to go to school).

It is vital that everyone signs up to **Tapestry** in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and **Class Dojo in Year 2**, which are our platforms for sending out school information, homework and school work while children are unable to attend. If you have not downloaded this app as yet, the office staff will be calling you to talk you through how to do it and answer any questions.



I cannot stress enough how important it is that everybody engages with remote learning. The school will be providing school work in the event of a lockdown or closures of classes or if a child has to be off school due to Covid.



The government has written remote learning in law. Please make sure that you talk to your child about doing school work at home.

**What does good attendance look like if school is closed?**

If your child cannot attend school due to a Covid related reason, such as needing to isolate, being in quarantine or the school is closed, they will **still be deemed as attending school if:**

- The child completes their school work over the day
- There is two-way communication between teacher and child e.g. work is submitted on Tapestry/Class Dojo; attending a virtual workshop or assembly or a phone call with the teacher/teaching assistant.
- **And** the parent calls the school on first day of absence and report in each subsequent day of absence.

**You must call the school every day of absence. If not the absence cannot be authorised.**



## Ormiston Victory Academy Consultation

Don't forget to have a look at the consultation document from OVA about removing St Michael's as a feeder school to the local high school. By living in Bowthorpe, our children will be directed to the city high schools. Have your say by sending your views to the PA at Ormiston Victory Academy - [pa@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk](mailto:pa@ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk)

## Will the school be celebrating Christmas?



I am sure that you are already thinking that Christmas will be rather different this year. You may be trying to work out who you can have round bearing in mind only 6 people can socialise indoors or outdoors. Already you will know that we cannot have parents in school, so much of what we usually do in school at Christmas time will feel very different in 2020. Some schools are saying that they will not be celebrating Christmas, which is very sad for the children.

However, we are celebrating it and as this year has been so unusual for everyone, but especially our children, we want to make it a special one!

- Christmas lunch in school will be spread over the week starting on **1<sup>st</sup> December** so that we can socially distance the children. More details to follow.
- Decoration Day will be held on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December**.
- School Christmas Fairs will be held with just children attending and in a carefully planned socially distanced way!
- Filming of some usual Christmas activities will take place and made available to you.
- Father Christmas has contacted me and told me that he can see the children via Zoom! With the support of special little helpers in school each child will get a Christmas gift!
- Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day is **Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** – but I am also happy for the children to wear their Christmas jumpers any day in December.



## Dates

**21<sup>st</sup> October** – break for half term

**2<sup>nd</sup> November** – back to school

**10<sup>th</sup> November** – flu immunisations

**11<sup>th</sup> November** – Remembrance Day

**16<sup>th</sup> November** – Friendship Week – Odd Socks Monday

**18<sup>th</sup> December** – break up for Christmas



Look after yourselves and keep safe.

*HJ McCarney*

Mrs McCarney

Executive Headteacher