



St. Michael's V.A. Junior School
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Head Teacher
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Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well and feeling excited about the full return to school of all children. It is great that we are able to all be back together again from **Monday 8th March.**

ALL children are expected to be in school, unless the child has a current CEV shielding letter.

We will be returning to the same systems and virus control measures as we had before Christmas. So that you can talk to your child about coming back to school, these are the things that will stay the same:

- We will still keep children in their bubbles. These bubbles are as small as they can be while still allowing us to provide the full curriculum that we need.
- Children will still eat their lunch in their classrooms.
- We will still be having zoned playground areas for each bubble, although outside play is not considered a risk.
- Children will still need to wash or sanitise their hands regularly.
- The adults will still try to keep their distance from the children when possible and reasonable, but will keep their distance from other adults.
- Nursery will run from 8.30 – 11.30am and all day until 3pm for fee paying children.
- Children will still have a staggered leaving off time. You may collect your child between 2.50 and 3.00pm.
- Parents will still need to wear masks on the school premises, keep their distance and not gather. Please try to limit to one parent collecting.
- You must not send your child to school if they are unwell. Covid symptoms include high temperature, cough or loss of taste/smell.

These things will be slightly different:

- Children must be in their class for 8.55am. Your child can be dropped off between 8.40 and 8.55am. Gates open shortly before this.
- Staff will be wearing masks when working close to children. Some staff will wear masks in class.
- School staff (not children) are tested for covid twice weekly.

School staff appreciate how hard parents have worked with their children over the lockdown. I am sure that it has not been easy at times. Some parents have contacted me as they are concerned about their child's progress. **Please do not worry that your child is behind. They are where they are - think of it as having taken a different learning path. But we will get them to the same destination. They will have all had learning experiences that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Please don't make them feel anxious about needing to 'catch up'. The only thing the children have really missed out on is seeing their friends, socializing, having fun and playing together.**

Rapid Covid tests for the household.

Did you know that you can get the rapid tests for the household so that you can test for covid at home regularly? Order yours online:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Angels' Breakfast and After School Clubs

Our Out of School provision will resume for St Michael's children only after Easter. At the time of writing we cannot mix the two schools but we will keep this under review. The government advice is for children to only mix with one additional bubble – so they have their class bubble and maybe an after school club and that must be it. We will keep you informed about when other after school clubs will start up again.

Restrictions remain

It is vital that families do not break the restrictions. Despite all the messages from government and school, we still have families who are meeting up for birthday parties, visiting family in other parts of the country and meeting up with friends and family indoors. If people do not follow the rules, the R rate will rise even higher and we will end up in lockdown again.

Please do not put other people's lives (including school staff) at risk.

Prepare your child for coming back to school

- It is a good idea to talk to your child about the full return of all children to school. Listen to any worries and contact the teacher through Tapestry/ClassDojo if needs be.
- Get back into a school routine this week– get to bed early, get up at the school time, get the school uniform out. School starts at 8.55am. Nursery starts at 8.30am.
- Book school lunches for w/b 8th March.

Kind regards

Mrs McCarney

Headteacher