



25th February 2021

Rediscover the Curriculum – March 2021 Return

Dear Parents,

In line with the government's decision regarding schools on Monday 22nd February, I am delighted to inform you that all pupils will return to the classroom on Monday 8th March. We want the pupils to settle back into school life as quickly and efficiently as possible and rediscover the curriculum that many have missed out on over the past few months. We care greatly about all who attend St Michael's and will do all that we can to ensure that our school is a safe and happy environment for all that attend. Below, I have outlined some of the areas that you might be interested in.

Attendance

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as much as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from Monday 8th March. We will communicate the necessity of attending school to parents and where required, we will offer additional pastoral support. We will re-establish attendance routines as before i.e. we will continue to record and monitor attendance as we did pre-covid and any absence will be followed up. Where appropriate, we will engage with the local authority to pursue sanctions for families with non-attending pupils (in line with the local authority's code of conduct).

Grouping the Children

The purpose of 'bubbles' is to minimise contacts and mixing between people, reducing the transmission of coronavirus. St Michael's Academy will do everything it can to maintain this whilst still delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. Within bubbles, children and adults must also take measures to distance themselves where at all possible. There has been recognition from the DfE that children cannot distance themselves from staff or from each other. Bubbles provide an additional protective measure and they make it quicker and easier to identify those who need to self-isolate as a result of a positive test result. In order for school to offer a curriculum that is best-placed to support 'catch-up' our bubbles will be in year groups. (Y3,4,5&6) The reasons for this are as follows:

- All children will be able to be considered for catch-up interventions now that teaching support can work across each year group.
- There would not be enough adults to support individual class bubbles.
- Our curriculum structure is based on classes within each year group sharing resources and equipment. There would not be enough resources to support a broad curriculum if we used individual class bubbles.
- Teachers and other staff can operate across their year group in order to facilitate the delivery of the curriculum.

Behaviour expectations

Expectations of behaviour will be revisited and the school's values of:

Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Expression will be widely discussed so that the ethos of the school does not change. The climate and culture needs to remain one of high expectations and respect for one another. I will not tolerate poor behaviour and any pupils who persistently ignore our rules will be dealt with swiftly and accordingly.

Headteacher	Matt Vella
Deputy Head	Cara Compton-Foster
Chair of Governors	Ed Pyke
Business Manager	Sharon Whatmore



School Uniform

All pupils will return to school wearing the appropriate uniform. However, pupils must wear the appropriate clothing for PE on their usual day.

Stationary Packs

All pupils will be issued with their own stationary pack. This is for their sole use and will minimise resources being shared within school. Children should not bring in resources or equipment from home.

Measures within the classroom

Adults are to encourage children to maintain a distance between one another whilst inside and reduce the amount of time that they are in face-to-face contact with one another. Where circumstances allow, adults are to try to distance from children and one another.

Children with additional needs will receive as much support as normal but adults are to be extra vigilant and mindful of their face-to-face time with the children and reduce this where possible.

Classrooms need to be adapted to support distancing where possible. If tables are used, they should face the front and children should sit side-by-side, not facing one another nor side on. All rooms will continue to be well ventilated.

Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating

If rates of infection in the local area rise, then some parents who have children who were once shielding due to medical advice may wish to isolate their children again. St Michael's Academy will support those parents through dialogue with the school nurse team so that appropriate advice can be offered and leeway afforded. Where children can't attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised.

Pupils and families who are anxious about return to school

If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned, we will provide opportunity to discuss the safety at school and the procedures in place in an attempt to provide reassurance – this could be via a Teams/google meets meeting. These pupils will be identified by school.

Measures elsewhere

There will be no whole-school internal events where children and adults are required to congregate. Where possible, efforts will be made to have virtual assemblies through Teams (video conference software). If the weather permits, then whole school assemblies will take place outside on a Friday afternoon.

Measures for arriving at and leaving school (inc break/lunch times)

Pupils will enter school via the various entrances that surround the border of school. The end time of school will vary for each year group and parents will enter the school playground via the main drive and leave through the park gate exit in the middle of school. **One way system as used before Christmas.**

Drop off for ALL PUPILS (8.30-8.50)

Y3 – Gate at top of park (Nearest Dahl classroom)
Y4 – Gate at middle of park (opposite steps to IT suite)
Y5 – Grass Royal Entrance
Y6 – Via playground as normal

Pick up on Main Playground

Y3 2.50pm
Y4 3.00pm
Y5 3.10pm
Y6 3.20pm

***Older siblings will leave with their youngest sibling**

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Staggering collection will ensure that the adults and children on site can distance appropriately and it will reduce the risk of children coming in to contact with children from other bubbles. Parents are to be encouraged to walk to school where possible and only one parent will be permitted on the school grounds. If children cycle to school, then they are to use the storage area to lock their bike securely. Staff from the appropriate year group will be on the entrances to support children and adults as they arrive at school. This way we will continue to reduce footfall of adults on site. Parents mustn't congregate at the 'drop-off' point, they must instead arrive on time and then depart. Given that the external school gates will be open at 2.45pm, only children accompanied by an adult will be allowed outside at this point. Again, parents must not arrive early or late. They must collect their children on time so that teachers can release pupils safely. The playground will be open to parents to briefly wait in before their children are released to them. Whilst parents are waiting, social distancing must be adhered to. Teachers will not be available to speak to unless teachers initiate the contact. Teachers must commit their time to ensuring that all children safely leave their care. Parents can contact teachers through Class Dojo if they have queries about the day or they can call to make a phone appointment. The school office is not to be accessed by parents unless through prior arrangement via a call or email. The office will not be open for parents to drop-in to.

The DfE guidance states that coming into the site without an appointment is not allowed. However, parents can obviously still call and receive support over the phone or via email.

Catering

The expectation is that the school kitchen will be fully open. Whilst policy and practices continue to embed, we will offer a limited menu but are confident that this will be in the form of a hot meal. Please ensure that you run through the menu with your child and they are aware of what food is on offer.

Breakfast Club Early Morning Care

This will commence at 8.00am and conclude at 8.20am. Children arriving between these times will be charged £1 each.

Magic Breakfast

This will commence at 8.20 and conclude at 8.45. Children attending these must be pre-booked and not turn up without booking.

Crossing Patrol

Unfortunately we will not have any school crossing for March. Please ensure that your children take care and are supervised when crossing St Michael's Road.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will commence on Monday 8th March, 3.25pm until 4.15pm. These are bookable via <https://stmichaelsacademy1.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. Clubs running are:-

Mondays – Year 3 Multisports
Tuesdays – Year 4 Multisports
Wednesday – Year 5 Football
Thursday – Year 6 Football
Friday – Year 6 Netball



World Book Day

World Book Day at St Michael's Academy will take place on Friday 12th March. Children are invited to attend school dressed as their favourite character.

Easter Raffle

Friends of St Michael's will be running an Easter Raffle. Tickets will be going home with children if you would like to purchase and take part on Monday 8th March. Tickets need to be returned by Friday 26th March ready for the draw on Wednesday 31st March.

There will be a non-uniform day on **Friday 26th March** for donations of Easter Eggs.

Lunch and break times

Break time supervisors will continue to support the supervision of break/lunchtimes. As a school we already have a system in place where our pupils have year group breaks. Therefore, we do not need to make any further alterations at this time.

Swimming

Hopefully this will commence in the summer term but we will communicate more information following advice from the government and further liaison Goldenstones Leisure Centre.

Physical Education

PE will commence on 8th March:

Monday – Year 3

Tuesday – Year 4

Wednesday – Year 5

Thursday – Year 6

All children should wear their PE kit into school on this day. PE kit should consist of tracksuit bottoms, black shorts or skorts, plain white t-shirt and school jumper. Pupils will be allowed to wear suitable outdoor footwear for this day only.

Cleaning

At various intervals (as per the cleaning schedule), adults will disinfect and clean tables, door handles and equipment. Each class will have their own allotted set of classroom cleaning equipment in a caddy. It will be stored appropriately within the classrooms.

Remote Learning

Remote learning will cease on Friday 5th March. All loaned school tablets must be returned to school on Monday 8th March. Teachers will continue to provide work remotely for pupils who are unable to attend school for reasons related to COVID-19.

Toilet Breaks

Children will be allowed to go to the toilet as they would do in a normal school day, however staff will be very aware of how many other children are also using the toilet and ensure that children wash their hands afterwards. Toilets will be cleaned regularly.

If we are required to clean an area after a positive case of coronavirus has been identified, we must follow the guidelines (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>). This includes ensuring that all tissues, PPE, and cleaning materials are put in a separate disposal bag that is stored securely for 72 hours before being disposed of.

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Hygiene

Adults and children are to wash their hands on the following occasions:

- Entry to school
- Before/after break times
- Before lunch
- When they change rooms
- Before leaving school
- Anytime that they visit the toilet or cough/sneeze in to their hands.

Additional hand sanitiser pumps have been purchased and are stationed in each classroom as well as additional hand sanitisers at appropriate points in school i.e. the reception desk for visitors and staff upon arrival and the photocopying areas for increased hygiene as a 'pinch point' in the school. Where children are struggling to wash independently they may receive support assuming the adult supporting is also washing their hands. Children may also use moisturiser supplied from home when required. If a child cannot appropriately wash their hands, then skin friendly skin cleaning wipes can be used as an alternative. Where required, staff are to request these packs from the office. Hand hygiene protocols are to be re-visited at the start of the year when the children will receive reminders about the expectations of practices and protocols in school. They will be established as part of our culture and behaviour expectations. Children will be reminded of the posters around school that encourage them to catch it, bin it and kill it. Children will be reminded that if tissues are regularly disposed of throughout the day, they should be thrown in to the lidded bins in each classroom and their hands must be cleaned afterwards. Where pupils struggle to maintain as good respiratory hygiene as their peers (spitting etc) they will need an individual risk assessment to ensure measures can be put in place to reduce the risks.

Response to any infection - Engage with NHS Test and Trace.

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus can and should get a test. If school thinks that the family of the symptomatic child/adult is unlikely to book a test appropriately, we will provide a home testing kit. Contact with the symptomatic family will be maintained so that we can respond appropriately to either a positive or a negative result. If the test result is negative, the child can return to school assuming they would do so under normal circumstances. If the test result is positive, the child and family need to follow the 'stay at home' guidelines.

Residential Trips

We are awaiting more guidance on these and will be in touch soon. Please continue to pay and if these are cancelled you will receive a full refund.

Outstanding Debt

Reminders have been sent out to parents who have outstanding debts on Parent Pay today for the period between September and December 2020. These need to be settled in order for your child/children to receive these services. Payments must be made via Parentpay. Please contact us should you need to discuss this further?



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

School will contact the local health protection team:

PHE South West

Professor Debra Laphorne, Centre Director

2 Rivergate

Temple Quay

Bristol

BS1 6EH

Telephone:0300 303 8162

We will provide the details of those children/adults that have been in direct close contact with the child/adult (face-to-face contact for any length of time); proximity contacts (extended close contact – within 1m-2m for more than 15 minutes); travelling in a small vehicle with the infected person. The admin team will prepare a report that shows the contact details of each member of the Year group bubble to support the contact tracers. School will inform parents of the infection, according to the flowchart, but we will not reveal the name of the infected child/adult. Those contacted or sent home must self-isolate for 14 days but those living in the household do not have to unless the child shows symptoms. At that point the household will need to go in to full isolation following stay at home guidance and have the test. If the symptomatic child's test is negative, they must continue to isolate for the remainder of the 14 days. If the result is positive, they must inform school immediately and isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of symptoms.

St Michael's Academy will not (as per the DfE instruction) be able to ask for evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children back after a period of self-isolation.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

PPE will only be used for two reasons; where an individual is presenting with coronavirus symptoms and/or when a child is receiving intimate care (toileting/relevant first aid support). The PPE available in school for dealing with cleaning of potentially infected zones and supporting ill children or adults is as follows:

Face masks

Aprons

Gloves of various sizes

Face shields

Children need to know that some adults might be wearing PPE and that it is 'ok'.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any of the above. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8th March.

Regards

Mr M Vella
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