



4th September 2020

Rediscover the Curriculum

Dear Parents,

In line with the Department for Education's instruction, it is our plan that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term – Monday 7th September 2020. 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 far 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 the beginning of the autumn term. 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.

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Behaviour expectations

During September, 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.

School Uniform

All pupils will return to school wearing the appropriate uniform.

Stationary Packs

All pupils will be issued with their own stationary pack at the start of the term. 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 should 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. Classrooms will be prepared as such ready for September.

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/Zoom meeting. These pupils will be identified by school.

Measures elsewhere

There will be no whole-school events where children and adults are required to congregate. Where possible, efforts will be made to have virtual assemblies through Teams (video conference software). Children are not to sing during assembly.

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St Michael's Academy

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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.

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**

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 2.50pm, 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

This will commence at 8.10am and conclude at 8.30am.

After School Clubs

There will be no after school clubs until further notice.

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Lunch and break times

Breaktime 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

As yet, we are unsure if Goldenstones Leisure Centre will be open to our pupils and we will communicate further information regarding this when we can.

Physical Education

PE will commence on Monday 14th September:

Monday – Fine and Morpurgo

Tuesday – Rowling and Wilson

Wednesday – Yr 4

Thursday – Yr 3

Friday – Boyce and Jennings

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.

***All PE lessons will take place outside on the school playground for the foreseeable future.**

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.

Children should 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.



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. We should receive these before the start of the autumn term and they will be stored in the Medical Room. 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.

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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'.

***Government guidance is changing on a weekly basis and we may need to re-evaluate this before our return in September.**

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Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any of the above. Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Regards

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