



Love **Determination** **Responsibility** **Respect** **Kindness** **Friendship** **Honesty**

Information for parents for school opening on 2 September 2021

Welcome back for the new school year, I hope the children have had an enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to seeing you all again and welcoming our new families to St Michael's too. The Department for Education (DfE) has issued revised [guidance for parents and carers](#) which you might like to read. The guidance documents that we receive in school have also undergone a number of changes over the summer holidays and so we are making a few changes to the way we are organising things in school. Our latest risk assessment will soon be available on the front page of the [school website](#).

The government states that, "As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education and all adults will have been offered 2 doses of vaccine by mid-September 2021." The government is prioritising "face-to-face, high-quality education" for all children, with class closures only as a last resort. Attendance at school is mandatory.

What if my child has Covid-19 symptoms?

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

If your child has Covid symptoms, however mild, they must not come to school and you should arrange for them to have a PCR test. They should isolate while they await the results of the test, if it is negative they can come back into school, or if it's positive they need to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the test. If they need to self-isolate, they should join their class remotely using Google Classroom.

If your child displays any Covid symptoms while they are in school, we will ask you to collect them and arrange for a PCR test.

What if my child has been a close contact of someone with Covid-19?

Adults who are fully vaccinated and children under 18 are no longer required to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19, but it is advised that they get a PCR test.

A close contact is:

- anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19
- anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:
 - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
 - been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
- A person may also be a close contact if they have travelled in the same vehicle or plane as a case.

What happens if there is a positive Covid case in school?

We will tell you. NHS Test and Trace has taken over contact tracing from schools, so is responsible for making contact with the positive case and their close contacts. If there are a number of cases in school, we will seek public health advice and further action may need to be taken.

How will classes be organised?

Children will be grouped together in their normal year groups and use the normal classrooms for their year. Class sizes will be no more than 30 children and some classes are smaller than this. Classes will be taught and supported by the same teacher and teaching assistant throughout the day. Years 2, 3, 5 and 6 have two teachers during the week. The DfE advises that schools do not need to continue with class 'bubbles' and we will be relaxing some of the measures we had in place last school year. Teachers are still being encouraged to teach outdoors where possible and we will continue to limit the need for children to move around inside school.

Drop off and pick up

The field gate off John Garne Way will be the main entry to the school grounds. Year 2 families (and pushchair users) can use the playground gate on Marston Road and Year 1 families can bring their children to the Year 1 playground gate accessed from the car park. Year 6 children can enter through the side entrance by the SMASH room that they used last year. Year 5 children should come into school via the field gate.

The gates open at 8:40 and children should go straight into their classroom. All children must be in school by 8:50, when we take the register. If your child is absent, please contact the office.

Children go home at 3:15, we will open the gates at 3:10.

Children must not play on the outdoor equipment before or after school.

Do I need to wear a face covering?

Adults no longer need to wear face coverings, but if you are a close contact of someone with Covid 19, please wear a face covering during what would have been the 10-day isolation period.

Travelling to school

Please walk, scoot or cycle if possible and remember other people using the pavement. Children on bicycles or scooters should wear helmets and must not ride or scoot on the school grounds. If you come by car, please don't drive into, or park in, the short road that leads to the field gate, this is dangerous when so many children will be using this as their main route into school. If you use public transport, please wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Year 5 and 6 children can come and go from school unaccompanied, but all children from Reception to Year 4 must be brought to school and collected by someone over 16 who is known to the staff.

What do the classrooms look like?

All unnecessary furniture, clutter and soft furnishings are still absent from classrooms. In the KS2 classrooms, tables face in the same direction and children will be seated beside each other. Children will have their own stationery box, they should not bring their own pencil case into school. If teaching and play resources are shared between classes, these will be to be carefully cleaned before use by another class. We will continue to ensure classrooms are well ventilated: all windows and doors will be kept open during the day.

Hand washing, toilets and hygiene

Children will continue to wash their hands as soon as they enter the school building and frequently throughout the day. We will remind the children how to wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds

and it would be helpful if you could reinforce this at home. Each classroom has a catch it, bin it, kill it station with tissues and hand sanitiser.

All children's toilets continue as unisex, this allows us to minimise the cross-over of groups using the toilets. Reception and Years 1 and 2 will use the toilets directly next to their classrooms; Year 4 and Year 5 will use the former KS2 girls' toilet and Year 3 and Year 6 will use the former KS2 boys' toilet. Year 5 and 6 girls can also use the adult toilet by their classroom when necessary. Children's use of the toilets will continue to be supervised.

How will playtimes be organised?

The Reception class shares the outside area by their classroom with children from Pre-School, they use the different areas at separate times. Year 1 have their own playground which they use during class time.

Three classes at a time will use the main playground at morning break: Years 1 to 3 for 20 minutes at 10:00 and Years 4-6 at 10:20. Lunch time break is staggered, Years 4-6 go out to play at 12:20 while the younger children eat lunch, then the younger children play outside while the older children are eating. Reception children play in their own playground. Each class will have their own labelled set of playground equipment (bats, balls, skipping ropes). Children will wash their hands when they come in from break times.

Lunches

The School Lunch Company, our catering service, is providing school lunches as normal, including universal free school meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Reception children will eat lunch in their own building. All other children will eat lunch in the Hall, where all windows will be opened to allow for good ventilation. Additional space will be placed between tables, children will share a table with children from their own class. Lunch sittings will be staggered: Years 1 and 2 come into lunch at 12:00. Year 3 at 12:20 and Years 4 to 6 come in from 12:30 as tables are freed up.

What will the curriculum look like?

We will continue to teach the full primary curriculum. We will use ClassDojo and Tapestry (Reception) to keep you up to date with what the children are learning and some of their achievements. If children have to work from home because of Covid-related reasons they can join their class remotely by Google Classroom.

What should the children bring into school?

As little as possible. Every day they will need:

- reading scheme book and reading record, if they are following the reading scheme
- a named water bottle, which is taken home for cleaning and refilling every night
- their PE kit (named) in a bag (Year 5 will need to bring their swimming kit on Tuesday when swimming starts)
- suitable outdoor clothing and/or sun protection

They should also bring in completed homework and library books for changing. Some children, including all Reception children, will also keep a change of clothes in school.

Children **do not** need a pencil case and should not bring in any toys, games or cards etc.

Should children wear school uniform?

Children must now wear full school uniform. This can include black or grey leggings and black trainers. All clothing must be named. As we will be keeping windows and doors open in classrooms, children may need additional layers. Children should have outdoor clothing and protection suitable for the weather. We will be getting changed for PE, so they should have a named PE kit in school with suitable footwear.

Can the children take reading books home?

All children in Reception to Year 3 will bring home reading scheme books, as will some children in Years 4 to 6. Listening to your child read every day will really benefit them. Reading scheme books cost an average of £6 each, so please look after them and return them promptly.

Mrs Pope will continue to hold weekly library sessions with each class and children who have returned the library books they have on loan will be able to borrow new books.

Drinking Water

The water fountains are turned off.

Children should bring a named drinking bottle filled with water to school. This must be taken home, cleaned, refilled and brought back to school each day.

Cleaning

During the summer holidays the school was thoroughly cleaned and we will continue with an enhanced cleaning routine during and at the end of the school day. Staff in classrooms will clean tables, sinks and toilets during the day and our cleaning contractor will clean each classroom and communal areas after school, including light switches, door handles and other frequently touched areas.

Can parents come into school?

Not yet, but this continues to be under review. If you wish to speak to the office, please wait outside the main entrance until the office staff are available to speak to you. You can deliver a quick message to the class teacher at drop off or pick up. Please use email to contact the school if at all possible. We will keep you up to date with what is going on in the weekly Missive, which is sent out by email at the end of the week. Mrs Owen and class teachers are continuing to have in person meetings with parents.

Assemblies, collective worship and performances

We will continue to hold Friday's Sharing Assembly virtually, all the classes come together over Zoom. Other assemblies during the week will be held in the Hall, but will be staggered with no more than 3 classes in the Hall at a time. Each class will lead one Friday assembly each term and these, along with our Harvest Service, will be pre-recorded and shared with you.

Will before and after school clubs be running?

Yes. Breakfast Club runs every morning and SMASH after school club every day when school finishes. You will be sent information about other after school clubs shortly.

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact the office and we will answer your questions: office.3216@st-michaels-oxf.oxon.sch.uk