



St Michael's RC Primary School

Address: Hills Terrace, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6PX - stmichaelsrcp.org

Contact: 01634 832578 - office@st-michaels.medway.sch.uk

FULL RETURN TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2020

21st July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We are busy getting prepared for the full return of our children in September. For the last two Inset days we have been planning for our Recovery Curriculum. We want to ensure that we will be delivering a broad and balanced curriculum ensuring that the gaps in knowledge that may have been developed will be filled, as well as ensuring that all the fundamentals in education like reading, writing and maths are also covered. We have been so pleased with the numbers of children who completed all the home learning but there is no substitute for being in school and we are so looking forward to seeing everyone.

We do recognise that for some children and their parents coming back to school might be a rather daunting prospect but we will all do our best to keep us safe and to allay any fears you might have. We have been lucky as we have had YR, Y1, Y6 and in St Michael's, Y5 back to school in June and July so we have had a bit of a dress rehearsal for the wider school opening in regard to health and safety procedures. We have taken our existing risk assessment and have only had to modify it slightly. At the moment it is being consulted with by all staff and governors but this will be completed in good time for September so that all parents can have a look at it on our website to fully inform them and hopefully allay any concerns they might have.

I will be writing to all parents again with further details but so far parents need to know that:

- Full uniform including ties and school shoes must be worn and will need to be purchased over the summer.
- Full PE kit should be brought into school and then it will be stored on the child's peg only to be brought home at the end of terms, (except for those children in Y5 and Y6 who may take their kit home every Friday for washing if desired but it must come back on Mondays). At St Michaels we are permitting our children to get changed for PE in two bright airy rooms in year group bubbles divided between boys and girls
- Children are permitted to bring in school bags but these should be small book bags to just hold a reading book and journal
- We will provide your child with their own pencil case and contents. There is no need to bring pens and pencils in from home. Pencil cases will stay in school, they will not go home and will not be shared with any other children
- All children will be dropped off from 8:30am for their interventions coming into the gate and door assigned to them- details to follow. Parents will not be permitted to come into the playground in the morning but to leave their child at the gate where they will make their way to their designated door where an adult will be there to



assist them in the washing of their hands before they go to class. We would ask all parents and carers to leave at this stage and not to congregate at the fence or on the pavement

- Break and lunch times will be staggered with the children playing in their designated areas in their bubbles
- There will be the opportunity for all children to have a hot meal from our first day back on 7th September with again the children eating in their bubbles in the dining room 2m distanced apart
- Children who have opted to have a packed lunch will eat in their classrooms. Please do try to avoid putting anything into your child's lunch box that your child can not open independently so that midday supervisors do not have to assist, hence keeping their 2m distance and avoiding touching items that have been brought in to school from home
- Children will be released at different times to decrease the need to gather and support social distancing. We will release all children with siblings first at 3pm. The children will be waiting in a holding bay with their siblings socially distanced from the other children. All parents and carers will enter the playground through the one gate at the bottom of the playground, collect their child from the bay who will be led to them by an adult and then take their child off the premises through the top gate walking in a one way loop. Once you have collected your child we would ask all parents to immediately leave. By releasing all siblings together, this minimises the need for parents and carers to wait for all their children at separate times.
- Following guidelines only 1 parent should come to collect or drop off to minimise gathering
- All children left will be those without siblings and can be collected in the same manner as above. Those children in the infants will be released into the bay at 3:10pm for parents to collect as they walk into the school in the one way loop
- Children in Y3 and 4 will be released at 3:20pm following the same pattern
- Children in Y5 and Y6 will be released at 3:30pm again following the same pattern

We would encourage all parents and carers to call the school or leave an email to the office email address if they have a query or concern. This also includes queries they may have with their child's teacher. We would rather not have parents coming to the Reception area in the morning and I would have to say when the school partially opened to designated year groups from 1st June, these arrangements worked really well.

Breakfast club will begin from Monday 14th September, we will be asking parents and carers to book a place for their child and then we will designate children to breakfast club bubbles trying to keep within their year groups as much as possible

I know that some of these measures may seem very strange but we are following the guidance issued to us from the DFE and they are in place for all of our safety. I will be writing again with these arrangements and with some additional details but in the meantime please do visit our website to view our videos for our new parents starting with us in September, our end of year virtual celebration assembly and each teacher has recorded a goodbye and welcome video for their children which you will find on your child's jotter page which also has a virtual tour of your child's new classroom. Don't forget the summer Reading Challenge and the "dip and dos" that are also on the Learning Platform Jotter Pages

Kind regards and keep safe

Mrs Katharine Sexton

headteacher