

Dear Parents and Carers

Good news! We will be complete and together again! An enormous well done to all the parents who have been managing remote learning. We thank you for your hard work and dedication to this but you can hand it back to us from the **8th March!**

In preparation for your child's return we would recommend beginning to think about the following:

Sleep/Routines	School Uniform	Anxieties
<p><i>It is more than likely that things are somewhat out of routine for many families, especially after the half-term holiday, so it is worth starting to get used to normal bed-times and getting up times as much as possible.</i></p>  <p>Bedtime Routine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take a bath <input type="checkbox"/> Put on pajamas <input type="checkbox"/> Brush teeth <input type="checkbox"/> Pick out story <input type="checkbox"/> Sing a song <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off light 	<p><i>As part of getting up in good time, it will also be worth getting back into the routine of not just being up, but being dressed and ready to leave on time.</i></p> 	<p><i>Although we expect that most of the children are already very keen to return to school, we also know that it may create some anxiety for children after such a long time out of the routine of school. If you have any specific concerns about your child/children, please contact the class teacher on info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk as soon as possible to raise those concerns as we will do our very best (as always) to provide bespoke support for every child. You may also find the following resource pack helpful (see link below)</i></p>

https://childrenshealthissurrey.nhs.uk/application/files/5315/9411/6866/CAMHS_Back_to_school_Resource_pack_for_Parents.pdf

Thank you also to those who have found the time to fill in our questionnaire. The responses were incredibly positive and your comments were very informative. One area that stood out was the loss felt in relation to social interaction, friendship and routine. We have discussed this as a staff group and are busy putting preparations in place for bringing the children together with a focus on these areas as well as supporting gaps in learning.

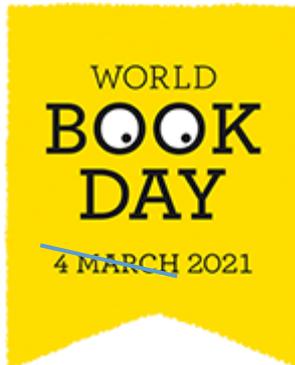
Covid-19 related issues

Our protective measures will remain as important as ever and we plan to run our return on 8th March as we did back in September. We ask that all parents and carers wear a mask when dropping off or collecting their child and whenever they are on site. Start and end of the day drop off/pick up times and routines will not change.

Thankfully, the improving weather will make it easier for us to be outside and keep windows and doors open. As always, you will need to send your children to school

prepared for this, and the changing British weather! Until the Easter break, we suggest you continue to dress your child according to the weather and we are happy for the children to wear their own warm trousers or joggers and shoes. We do ask that they still wear their school jumper or cardigan and school fleece.

Staff will continue to engage in twice weekly voluntary testing through rapid lateral flow tests.



Please note!

Wednesday 10th March 2021

We are postponing this magical day so that all of our children (and adults) can join in, dressed as the character that most inspires them if possible.

We want to make this a special day, a reminder about the unbelievable power of books, and how they can transport us to other places and spaces and help us stretch our imagination, hearts and minds! Please take the time to talk to your child about their favourite book. Ideally, we want them to appreciate that not all children have easy access to books and that every book is a precious item to be treasured. We will send home more information on the fantastic activities we have planned, closer to the date. In the meantime, have a think about your book and costume!

The season of Lent is now upon us. We are now in the habit of doing Lent generously through the **40 Acts resources** that we feel are a very positive and accessible approach for our infant children. The ParentMail email contains the links for the website and family planner and some ideas of acts linked to the themes of:



- ✓ Give out
- ✓ Spiritual
- ✓ Write/Draw
- ✓ Think
- ✓ Care
- ✓ Speak
- ✓ Act/Do
- ✓ Make

It would be great if you could look at these with your children and choose some (not all!) of the 40 ideas that would be most relevant to their age and stage.

Friday 19th March 2021

Finally, we will be taking part in red nose day on the **19th March.**



We will hold an assembly to discuss the importance of this annual event and we would like the children to come in wearing a red item. A red nose, red hair tie, red sock or similar! Be creative!

We only ask for a £1 donation towards comic relief for this.

We look forward to renewing as a school community!

Kind Regards

Nicola Cleather
Head of School