

St Michael's

Church of England Infant School



This half term's value is

COMPASSION

8th March 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back!

As before, the children will be welcomed back as a 'whole school bubble' with year group 'pods' operating within this system. All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. As a small school we feel confident that managing the return in this way is both in line with current government guidance and will provide reassurance to families.

Below is some key information around our protective measures. A copy of our risk assessment can also be found on our website.

- We encourage robust hand and respiratory hygiene. Children will use soap and water in classrooms and toilets. Hand sanitiser will be available for adults. Children will continue with the '**catch it, kill it, bin it**' procedure. Tissue bins will be emptied daily.
- We maintain social distancing wherever possible. The government acknowledges that social distancing is difficult for children and they are not expected to distance in the same way that adults do.
- We have arranged classrooms with forward facing desks.
- Staff will maintain a social distance from children and other staff as much as possible.
- Carpet time will be reduced and managed.
- Regular hand washing will continue.
- Frequent cleaning of regularly touched surfaces will continue to be carried out by the staff and the cleaners.
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School starts again for all children on **Monday 8th March**. Staggered start times will continue to be in place for the morning and afternoon drop off and pick up.

	Drop off	Pick up
Reception	9.00 am	2.50 pm
Year 1	8.50 am	3.00 pm
Year 2	8.50 am	3.00 pm

It is important to keep to these times and to ensure that parents follow a one-way system to enable a safe flow through the school grounds. Please limit to one adult picking up and dropping off to minimise the number of people on site.

KS1 families

All parents enter the school via the pedestrian gate, walk along the concrete path and down the steps to the playground. Year 2 should line up on the right-hand side by the mural wall. Year 1 should line up on the left-hand side by the bushes - parallel to Year 2. Your child's class teacher will be waiting outside of the office entrance to welcome them into the building. There will be an adult waiting for them inside their classroom. Year 2 parents should then exit by walking up the steps and along the path. Year 1 parents should walk back through the centre of the playground, up the steps and along the path to exit. Please exit along the grass bank, back to the pedestrian gate. Please wait until it is safe to exit the pedestrian gate as there may be a family coming through.

At the end of the day, Year 1 will continue to be released via the hall and Year 2 will be released by the front entrance to the building. The entry into school at the end of the day is exactly the same as the morning routine. **Please keep yourselves and others safe by adhering to social distancing (2 metres). Please do not cross over each other at drop off and pick up. Infection rates are currently low but in order to keep them this way, we all need to continue to follow the social distancing guidelines and protective measures. Face masks will need to be worn on site.**

Reception families

Your route will be exactly the same as KS1 families (entry via the pedestrian gate) but instead of making your way to the playground, your child can go directly into their classroom. As you enter the pedestrian gate you can line up along the concrete path against the wall. As before, your child's class teacher will be waiting at the class side door to welcome them in. Please then exit via the bank and out of the pedestrian gate. Again, if you could kindly wait until it is safe to exit the pedestrian gate.

After school clubs

As previously communicated, wraparound care will resume on **Monday 8th March**. We are now discussing the possibility of other clubs taking place from the beginning of the summer term. Look out for more information on this soon.

P.E kits and Forest School

On days that children have PE they should continue to come to school in their PE kit, including trainers. They are allowed to stay in their P.E kit for the remainder of the day and take it home to be washed each time. PE days remain the same as last term. Forest School sessions will resume from Monday. Below are the days that the children will take part in these sessions.

Reception – **Wednesday (not the first week back due to World Book Day)**

Year 1 – **Monday**

Year 2 - **Friday**

Book Bags and Pencil Pots

Reception children do not need to bring anything into school except a school book bag. KS1 children should also bring in their school book bag. In addition to this, we ask that your child brings back their replenished 'pencil pot'. Alternatively, a small pencil case. This should contain a writing pencil, coloured pencils and rubber. Please do not overfill this as children could lose items and become upset. We ask that no felt tips come into school. We do not use felt tips in our books, only colouring pencils. Felt tips for free learning will be provided by the school. We will

provide the rest of the equipment such as rulers and scissors. **Please bring this in on Monday 8th March.**

Children should continue to bring in their own labelled water bottle.

Homework and Books

Homework will resume from **Friday 12th March**. This will be uploaded onto Tapestry on a Thursday evening. We will check this once a week and respond with appropriate and brief feedback or comments. Please now use this platform solely for homework and only upload once per week. The children will be able to take reading books home once again! The children will be able to choose 3 or 4 books for the week on a Friday and then should bring them back to school by the following Thursday. Please do continue to use the eCollins subscription in addition to this.

Reception will send out details on how they will move forward with homework, next week and they will continue to send reading books home on a Monday and collect them in the following Friday.

Children eating together

All children will be able to have a hot, cooked lunch should they wish to. The children will all eat lunch in the hall as we are essentially one 'bubble' but will sit on a table with their own class.

Covid 19 related information

Staff will continue to participate in voluntary lateral flow testing twice a week.

If your child or anyone they live with, has a temperature, please do not send them into school until you or your family member has had a negative Covid test. Call the school office before 9am and leave a message letting us know why they are not in school. Please remain vigilant in checking for symptoms of Covid 19 and follow government guidelines.

Communication with the school

The school site will continue to be closed to non-essential visitors. Communication will be via school phone and school email. You can also speak to teachers and staff who are on the morning and after school drop off and pick up rota. Mrs Piggott will be available with a pad and pen at the pedestrian gate each morning, to not only welcome families in, but to take any notes for teachers and other school staff if necessary. We will no longer be using Tapestry for general communication for Year 1 and 2, now that the full opening of school is in operation. Emails should be sent via the school office (info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk). **Please look out for a letter from the reception teachers in relation to Tapestry and home/school communication and assessment.**

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning!

Warm Regards

Nicola Cleather
Head of School

Things to note:

World Book Day – Wednesday 10th March (children should come in dressed as a book character)

P.E for **Year R** for the next two weeks – **Monday 8th and Monday 15th**