

# St. Michael's Church of England, VA, Primary and Nursery School

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## Dream, Believe, Achieve

We are a school, rooted and inspired by Christian values, which nurtures children to achieve infinitely more than we might ask or they may dream; empowering them so they can flourish as confident citizens now and in the future.

– Ephesians 3:20 "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."



1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

## BACK TO SCHOOL - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas break, even in these testing times. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Due to the increased risk of COVID in our area, we have new precautions in place to help keep the school as COVID secure as possible for all our children and staff. There are a variety of new measures in place for staff:

- All staff will be wearing visors and masks when moving around the school,
- Each key stage bubble will have its own staff room area,
- Staff meetings will all be via zoom,
- We will not be having any visitors coming into the school apart from essential works, therefore I will not be having meetings within my office. If you do need to speak to me, please email or phone the school, I will be happy to set up a video call in place of a face-to-face meetings.

We need your help to keep our school as safe as possible:

- Please wear masks whenever you are on the school grounds,
- Do not enter the school building or come within 2 metres of the entrances – except for speaking to the school office in the entrance foyer, only 1 household at a time please.
- Talk to your children about the importance of regular hand washing with soap,
- Leave the playground as soon as your child has gone into school - key stage 2 (year 3 and above) parents, you may drop your child off at the school gates,
- Leave the playground as soon as you have collected your child – do not stay on the school grounds to chat or wait for other parents or children,
- If you do not wish your child to use hand sanitiser, emphasise to them that they will have to wash their hands more regularly – not doing so when asked will be in breach of the school's behaviour policy.
- Windows will remain open and so will the majority of doors to aid airflow. You may wish to send an extra jumper in with your child/children and/or ensure they are wearing vests etc.



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I appreciate for some people this may seem overly stringent, for others, you may have been hoping the children don't have to go to school at all.

As a school we have to follow the government guidance/direction and then do our utmost to protect us all from the COVID virus within our setting. Our job has been made more difficult due to the more virulent strain currently working its way across the country, however, we always strive to do our best and protect every child and adult as much as practicably possible. We are very aware of the emotional impact all of this is having on our children. We will continue to work to support the children's emotional well-being and helping them to negotiate the complex feelings that this pandemic is bringing. Please also remember there is support available for parents/carers and family members too.

We are able to continue with the Breakfast and After-School Club however this will now be in the Ark. Please drop your child off at the Ark entrance and collect them from there too. Please remember to book your child into the clubs the day before, we cannot guarantee the provision if you request the service on the day.

We are continuing with the staggered start and end to the school day. Your child can be dropped off between 8.45 and 9.10 and collected between 2.50 and 3.15.

School attendance is mandatory and all children will be expected to return to school in line with Government and County expectations from the 4<sup>th</sup> of January. Please follow the normal reporting procedures for illness or absence.

Thank you for your continued support at this time. We have plenty of exciting learning experiences lined up for your children over the coming term. Thank you to all the Teaching staff (Teachers and Teaching Assistants) who have been working hard over the holiday to ensure they were prepared for school and/or remote learning. Exciting learning is just a few days away! A big thanks as always goes to Fiona, who works relentlessly alongside me to ensure the smooth running of our school. We are very lucky to have a team so dedicated to the school and the community.

On that note, we have a new member of teaching staff joining us for the Spring Term. Miss Lucy Chamberlain will be teaching in Chestnut Class on a Wednesday to cover Mrs Phillips' Deputy Headteacher release time. We are very excited to have another enthusiastic teacher join our staff even if it is only for 11 weeks.

I truly hope 2021 grows to provide hope and joy for us all. I still believe that "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

Kindest regards and best wishes,

Mr John Neenan

Headteacher & SENDCo

