

## UNITED SCHOOLS FEDERATION

St. Michael's C. of E. Nursery & Primary School St. Catherine's C. of E. VA Primary School  
St. Mary's C. of E. VA Primary School Marldon C. of E. VA Primary School  
Ipplepen Primary School and Stokeinteignhead School



### ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that you are as pleased as I am, following the Prime Minister's announcement, that all our children can return to school on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The news is truly welcome and the light at the end of the tunnel seems to be shining a little brighter for now. I am happy to inform you of the arrangements for this.

**The expectation is that ALL children return to school, School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8th March and families who don't attend may face fines.**

We have updated our comprehensive risk assessment to ensure that we keep all children and adults safe. This can be found on our school website, under the CV19 tab.

As in the Autumn term, we will be operating year group 'bubbles' following the guidance from the Department for Education (DFE) - this will reduce the impact on children and families, should there be a case of COVID-19 in the school. If we operate this system then, hopefully, this will reduce the likelihood of a whole school closure which would be very disruptive to everyone. Year group 'bubbles' means that year groups can come into school and leave at the same time, have playtimes together and share the adults who work with them. This is a much better approach and will feel much more like normal school for our children.

In order to maintain these year group 'bubbles' we need to stagger the start and end time to the day, again following the guidance from the DFE. This will mean that children and parents can remain separate as much as possible to reduce the risk of transmission between much larger groups. Times will follow shortly.

You must drop off your child between 8.40am and 9.00am (your child's/children's time will follow shortly). This will mean that we can continue to stagger the arrival of all our families. Children and parents will need to use particular areas and arrive and leave promptly (**PLEASE DO NOT COME EARLY**). We need your help to keep everyone safe by sticking to the timings and the allocated entrances.

**Children need to wear full school uniform as they normally would.** We would like children to limit the amount of equipment that they bring to school each day, to reduce the risk of transmission. They only need a drinks bottle, their packed lunch (if they are not having school dinner) and their reading record and book. This can be brought into school in a bag. We will support children with the changing of books as they will need to be cleaned and left unused for a period of time before the next child can use them. Please do not allow children to bring in toys, games and mobile phones where possible. **All children can wear PE kits to school on their class PE days.**

Please help us to keep your child, yourself, other parents and our staff safe by following these simple rules:

- To maintain social distancing **only 1 adult** should accompany your child to and from school
- Keep 1m+ distance from other parents - Use the marked spaces on the footpaths
- Please make sure you are social distancing from other families and that you follow the instructions from school staff to ensure everyone's safety.
- Leave promptly when you have dropped/collected your child - **please don't gather at the gate as we need to maintain social distancing from the next group arriving**
- Children should not wear face masks or PPE of any description - this fits with Government Guidelines about keeping children safe in school. You do not need to send your child to school with hand sanitiser as we have a rigorous hygiene schedule
- Please communicate with school via email and phone.

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell. If they have a high temperature, loss of smell or taste or a new, continuous, dry cough, please let us know and book your child to be tested immediately. Please inform us as soon as possible of the outcome. If after school hours please email me [kate.arnold@stmichaels.education](mailto:kate.arnold@stmichaels.education)

Anyone displaying Coronavirus symptoms in school will be sent home immediately and will need to follow the Government guidelines for self-isolation.

- Child with symptoms will be sent home and must arrange a test
- Siblings will be sent home
- Other children in that group can continue to come to school until the test results are back
- If the test is positive, the symptomatic child must self-isolate for 10 days, siblings for 10 days and the same group children and staff for 10 days. We will also notify Public Health England
- If negative, the child can return when better

If parents refuse to test their child, we will notify Public Health England.

We are planning this return as carefully and safely as possible.

Thank you all again for your continued support. I am sure you will also want to join me in thanking all the staff across our school who have continued to work throughout this pandemic and put the needs of our children and families first.

Kind regards,

Kate Arnold  
Head of School