

Information for Parents Regarding St Michael's Position with the Government's Proposal to Open Schools nationally on June 1st.

May 18th 2020

Dear Parents, Carers,

Following the information, about the measures the school planned to implement, in response to the government's proposed opening, we have, understandably, received a range of important questions from parents and staff.

This terrible disease has caused widespread distress and anxiety on both a national and local level; both staff and families are looking for reassurance from the government that it is safe to return to work and school. This is an unprecedented time for all schools; while we are specialists in education, we do not presume to have the scientific knowledge about COVID19, that would allow us to answer and address all our parents' very valid concerns. At this stage, we can only follow the government's guidelines for keeping staff and pupils safe during the phased re-opening.

All primary educational settings are unique and the government's guidance does not stipulate a one size fits all policy for educational settings to manage the proposed phase return.

For the reasons mentioned, following consultation with the governors, we feel the safest option is to test the measures we plan to put in place, in a controlled environment, initially, in the first week back, with a minimum number of sessions (see proposed timetable Appendix 1). To minimise the risk of over exposure, children will be grouped into class 'pods'. There will be 2 pods per class, with a maximum of 15 children in each. 'Pods' will be managed by the same teaching staff during each session. Children in the same class 'pod', in the first week, are invited to 2 consecutive morning sessions. The school will be closed to pupils on Wednesdays, to allow for deep cleaning, before the other class 'pods' are invited in.

Our key focus as the children return, is to familiarise them once more with their learning environment. We will be teaching English and mathematics initially during the sessions. Home learning will mirror the teaching in school. Ideally, children, will be taught in pods by their usual class teacher, however, this is dependent on staff availability. To avoid mixing children between different 'pods', the pupils of key workers, who need to be in school full time, will be taught by another member of staff assigned to this group.

To quote the politicians, 'we are in this together' and therefore, in the interest of the whole school community's safety, we need assurance of parental support throughout this transition. For this reason, we are asking you to co-operate with us, by reading and signing a 'Home School Agreement'. A signed or emailed response, to acknowledge and accept the conditions, needs to be with the school office by **Thursday 21st May** before your child can be allowed into school. A copy of this document will be available, initially, only for reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils.

We understand that there will be an ongoing need for parents and carers to share concerns and questions; we will be providing a designated new page on the web-site titled 'COVID FAQ'.

I am sure you can appreciate, in the interest of safety, and new guidance, why we have made some alterations to our original proposal (May 14th 2020). We will need to work together, throughout the initial opening phase and in the weeks ahead. To date, we have no guidance on how or when, the other year groups will be invited back to school. Meanwhile, we will make preparations to receive these children, as and when we are directed by the government to do so.

Please be assured of our very best intentions, at all times, to share any information available to us, to help our families and staff feel comfortable, working in school, during these difficult times.

We have reviewed '**Arrangements We Will Be Putting in Place If/When the School Opens to Years R,1 and 6 on June 1st 2020**'. This document can also be found under the COVID 19 tab on the home page of the web site. We hope this helps to answer some of the most recent questions raised by staff and parents about the safety measures the school is putting in place. Our risk assessments and practices during the phased opening will be reviewed on a weekly basis by the leadership team and governors.

Parents, who have agreed to follow the 'Home School Agreement', will be informed of 'pod' groups and sessions by **Friday 22nd May**. In the interests of our families and staff well-being and safety, children cannot be invited into school unless parents have registered that they have read and understood this agreement.

Thank you for the support and appreciation you have shown towards the school and staff to date.

Kindest regards

L Anderton

Headteacher

On behalf of the Governing Body.

Appendix 1

Timetables for Phased Proposed Opening on June 1st

Year R

	June 1 st Monday	June 2 nd Tuesday	June 3 rd Wednesday	June 4 th Thursday	June 5 th Friday
9-11.30am	Pod Group A	Pod Group A	School Closed for Deep Cleaning	Pod Group B	Pod Group B
12.30-3pm	No session in 1 st week	No session in 1 st week		No session in 1 st week	No session in 1 st week

Year 1

	June 1 st Monday	June 2 nd Tuesday	June 3 rd Wednesday	June 4 th Thursday	June 5 th Friday
9-11.30am	Pod Group A	Pod Group A	School Closed for Deep Cleaning	Pod Group B	Pod Group B
12.30-3pm	No session in 1 st week	No session in 1 st week		No session in 1 st week	No session in 1 st week

Year 6

	June 1 st Monday	June 2 nd Tuesday	June 3 rd Wednesday	June 4 th Thursday	June 5 th Friday
9-11.30am	Pod Group A	Pod Group A	School Closed for Deep Cleaning	Pod Group B	Pod Group B
12.30-3pm	No session in 1 st week	No session in 1 st week		No session in 1 st week	No session in 1 st week

Timetable for Week beginning June 8th 2020

Year R

	June 8th Monday	June 9th Tuesday	June 10th Wednesday	June 11th Thursday	June 12 th Friday
9-11.30am	Pod Group A	Pod Group A	School Closed for Deep Cleaning	Pod Group B	Pod Group B
	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH
12.30-3pm	Pod Group A	Pod Group A		Pod Group B	Pod Group B

Year 1

	June 8th Monday	June 9th Tuesday	June 10th Wednesday	June 11th Thursday	June 12 th Friday
9-11.30am	Pod Group A	Pod Group A	School Closed for Deep Cleaning	Pod Group B	Pod Group B
	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH
12.30-3pm	Pod Group A	Pod Group A		Pod Group B	Pod Group B

Year 6

	June 8th Monday	June 9th Tuesday	June 10th Wednesday	June 11th Thursday	June 12 th Friday
9-11.30am	Pod Group A	Pod Group A	School Closed for Deep Cleaning	Pod Group B	Pod Group B
	LUNCH	LUNCH		LUNCH	LUNCH
12.30-3pm	Pod Group A	Pod Group A		Pod Group B	Pod Group B



Home/ School Agreement For the Proposed Phased Re-Opening of St Michael's to Pupils.

June 1st 2020

I understand that, in the interests of the safety and well -being of families, pupils and staff I am prepared to agree to the following:

Parents/Carers

I/We will:

- Encourage good handwashing practice.
- Respect the closure on Wednesdays for deep cleaning
- Maintain a safe distance (2 metres apart) when dropping off and collecting children from school.
- Not send our child to school if someone in the family is isolating or has symptoms of Covid 19.
- Ensure only 1 adult brings or collects our child at the beginning and end of the day.
- Washed the uniform after each session. Children do not need to wear blazers or ties to school.
- Not allow toys to be brought from home.
- Put snacks, brought from home, in a sealed bag. This bag to be disposed of in school. Lunch boxes can be brought in, in week 2.
- Make sure book bags remain at home.
- Send children in with their own water bottle and ensure these are full at the start of the session/day.
- Not send my child to school if I suspect they are unwell or expect the school to administer over the counter medication, such as Calpol.
- Not enter the school grounds, unless agreed with the office
- Collect children promptly at the end of a session/day.
- Not ask for or expect paper work or books to be sent home
- Appreciate the school will make every effort to ensure children follow the rules for safe distancing, but cannot accept responsibility, for those children who, for whatever reason, forget the safe distance 'bubble' rule.
- Collect children who present with challenging behaviour and make it difficult for staff to manage the safety and well-being of the class.

Child's Name:.....

Class:.....

Parent/Carer.....

Date:.....