

St. Michael's Church of England (VA) Junior School

By God's Love, we all flourish together

Barnard Road Galleywood Chelmsford Essex CM2 8RR

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Headteacher: Mrs Rowen Prigg BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Dines BA (Hons)



St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School

4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and that you are all really looking forward to your children returning to school next week, as we are. Hopefully, you have received the letters this week about extra-curricular clubs and the letter sent to you yesterday about Tutoring after school.

Alongside the letter I sent you last week, this will provide you with several reminders about how school will operate from Monday 8th March, in line with the Government guidance. Last week's letter reminded you of the start and finish times for school and the entrances and exits we need to maintain to ensure year group bubbles are consistent.

Extra-curricular clubs and Tutoring after school

Please remember that your child/children can still access the Wrap Around after school provision once their club has finished or they have attended a tutoring session after school.

Handwashing and sanitiser

We will continue to operate the same systems as we did before and children will be expected to wash their hands and sanitise regularly. If you provided your child with their own sanitiser before then please continue to do so from Monday. We have been really impressed with how sensible children have been with this.

Arriving early for school

If your child arrives unattended on the front playground before 8.40am (years 3 and 6) there will not be an adult out on duty. It is your responsibility to ensure your child is safe before school starts. Your child should not arrive before their staggered time as we need to maintain year group bubbles, in line with the Government guidance. We will mark out an area to the right of the playground for parents to stand to avoid congestion outside the gate.

Arriving late for school

As before, if your child arrives on the front playground after their staggered time, they will be asked to wait with a staff member, whatever the weather, before allowing them to enter school therefore not compromising other bubbles.

Children walking home on their own

Just a reminder, if you allow your child to walk home alone, the school do need this in writing from an adult who has parental responsibility otherwise we will need to contact you before we let them leave the school premises.

Face coverings

Staff and visitors will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas, in school and this is embedded practice. They have the option to wear face coverings in the classroom too.

I am requesting that any adult who enters the front playground, to drop off or pick up their child/children, should wear a face covering and maintain two metres social distancing between adults. There will be two signs, on the front playground, to serve as reminders for parents. Please note, it is not necessary for children in Primary school to be wearing a face covering. Visitors will also be asked to wear a face covering as will parents who enter the front foyer to speak to the office staff, even though the perspex screen is still in place.

Behaviour


We are aware that, with many of our children absent from their friends for 8 weeks they are going to want to resume contact however, the Government guidance remains the same that all people (including the children) have to be encouraged to maintain distance from each other to lower the risk of transmission. Older children are not to touch



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staff or their peers, unless unavoidable. The younger children in school may find this more difficult but we will continue to remind them and support them in maintaining their distance. Please could you support the school in reiterating this again with your child before they return to school on the 8th March.

Bikes and scooters

As we are doing everything possible to keep our year group bubbles consistent, we cannot yet invite children to bring their scooters and bikes into school as we do not have adequate facilities to store them all within four separate bubbles. If your child uses a bike or scooter to get to school, then we ask parents to take these home with them.

Please can I remind parents that younger siblings are not to ride their scooters and bikes on the front playground as this is a hazard for children entering school and maintaining their bubbles.

Uniform and PE uniform

All children are expected to return to school in full school uniform which includes suitable footwear (as per our uniform policy resent to parents at the end of the Autumn term). I am aware that non-essential shops will not have reopened before the children return on the 8th March, but we will expect children to arrive at school wearing appropriate school shoes and children can bring in trainers to wear during the daily mile, as before. Please contact Mrs Cullen if you have any questions regarding this.

Children can still wear their school PE uniform to school on the days that they have PE and Tuesday PPA days however, if they are attending an extra-curricular club on a day that they do not have PE or PPA, they must attend school in their school uniform and get changed at the end of the day for their club after school. Please note that children should be wearing their appropriate school PE kit from Monday. Please contact Mr Leeding if you have any questions about school PE kit.

Staffing

Unfortunately, not all teaching staff will be back to school on Monday 8th March. Miss McManus will be returning on Monday 15th March and Miss James will be returning to school after Easter.

If your child is in Miss McManus's class, please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns and your message will be passed on to Miss Morris in the first instance.

If your child is in Miss James's class, Mrs Prigg is really looking forward to teaching the children in the first week with Mrs Bowcher. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Mrs Prigg or Mrs Bowcher on her two days (Thursday and Friday).

We hope that you are as excited as we are for the children's return on Monday and it will be so lovely to have the school full of laughter and excitement, once again. There will, no doubt, be a period of readjustment for the entire school community but we know how resilient the children can be and how important returning to school is for them.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rowen Prigg

Headteacher

