



Dear Parents and Carers,

Information regarding Starting School in September

We are writing to welcome you again, to our St. Michael's Church School family and outline some of the details that we are now able to share, in preparation for your children starting school in September.

Attached to this letter, you will find a document outlining a two week settling in period for children starting school in September. Due to current circumstances, we have been unable to visit Nurseries and Pre-Schools, as we would usually do throughout the Summer Term. We are also unable to invite parents to take up a home visit this year. With this in mind, we have adapted our practice in order that we are able to get to know your children, allow them to get to know us, in a gradual, supportive manner.

Class Groupings

The children have been organised into 4 colour groups and these groups will remain consistent during their two week settling in period. During this time, we will work with the children and you, their parents and carers, to establish a greater understanding of your children's needs, friendships and interests. Using this information, we will then build our two EYFS classes; Ladybird Class, led by Mr Owen and Caterpillar Class led by Miss McMullon. These class lists will be sent home with the children on **Friday 18th September** and will not be altered after this time. If you have any information you feel should be shared, or questions about the class groups, please speak to Mrs Daulton or Mrs Katie Smith during the two week settling in period.

Alternative Home Visits

As previously referred to, we would usually offer parents and children the opportunity to have a home visit, where we would be able discuss any needs or answer questions that you may have, as well as sharing any other important information with you. Due to circumstances out of our control we are currently unable to offer this visit. In place of this, we are planning for the Class Teachers to arrange a meeting with parents and carers during the last two weeks of September, once children have been organised into class groups. These meetings will be conducted over the telephone or via Zoom. More information to follow in September.

Food and Drink in School

Each day, children are offered a morning snack of fruit. This fruit is provided and children do not need to bring their own snack. We encourage all children to join in with snack time and usually because their peers are all willing to try the fruit on offer, many reluctant or fussy eaters join in too! We are also able to provide milk for all children. Please ensure you have signed up for your child to receive their milk at <https://www.coolmilk.com/> . Milk is



free for children who are under 5 and there is a small charge for children who are 5 or over.

The school will provide all children with a named water bottle. This bottle will be kept in school, cleaned at the end of each day and refilled with fresh water each morning. Children **do not** need to bring a bottle from home.

You will notice that we have planned for children to begin staying for lunch during their second week in school. This is being conducted in a staggered manner, in order that we are able to offer lots of support to you children in understanding how to choose their lunch, the change in location (eating in the hall) and the new adults that they may meet at lunchtime. All children in England are offered free school lunches up to the age of 7. At St. Michael's we offer children a packed lunch (sandwich, fruit, snack and dessert) or a hot meal option. The lunch menu for the Term will be available on the school website in September for you to look at and talk through with your children. If your child has any dietary requirements, please ensure you have informed a member of the office team who will then update the school records. It is essential we know this information in time for the children staying for lunch.

School Uniform

We ask that children come to school wearing full school uniform in September. We have a separate uniform for PE, which the children wear to school twice a week. All uniform needs to be clearly named. More information about this can be found here <https://www.stmichaelschurchool.co.uk/page/?title=Uniform+%26amp%3B+PE+kit&pid=56> on our school website. We will inform parents about which day's children will be required to wear their PE uniform on Friday 18th September, in line with classes and teacher information being sent home.

Personal 'comfort' toy

We understand that this is an uncertain time for you and your children and with this in mind, to offer a sense of security and comfort we would like to suggest that children are able to bring a toy from home, into school with them. This toy should be in a small, named plastic bag and is only for your child to use as a comfort during their time in school each day. They will then bring this toy home with them at the end of each day.

At this point in time, please ensure children coming to school in September only bring with them; a named coat, a named hat (if the weather is sunny) and a small bag with their chosen, named toy from home. During September, we will communicate with parents about when to bring book bags and any other required items.

Tapestry

In the Early Years Foundation Stage at St. Michael's, we use the Tapestry programme to track observe, and communicate with parents about what children have been doing in



school each day/week. In order for parents to access Tapestry, you can do this via a desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile device. You will receive an email activation link from Tapestry in order to make an account in which you will be able to access your child's journal. We are aiming that these activation links will arrive with you by the 4th September. This activation email will be sent to the email address you provided when completing your school registration forms.

Preparing your child for starting school

When preparing your children for school in September, we ask that you share the staff videos and virtual tour of the school which can be found here

<https://www.stmichaelschurchool.co.uk/key-information/starting-school> . We also encourage parents and carers to support children to;

- recognise their first name
- be able to recognise and fasten their coat
- use a knife and fork
- be able to use the toilet independently

When supporting your child to write or recognise their name, please model this using an uppercase letter for the first letter of their name, and lowercase letters for the remaining letters. For more support around handwriting and letter formation please visit the starting school page, where you will find a drop down tab 'Early Writing Support' with a range of resources for you to use at home.

Over the summer months, we would like the children to complete a special job for the teachers in school! We would like them to paint, draw, or make a picture of the people and pets who live in their house. We will then ask that the children to bring these 'works of art' to school with them in September, to form our first classroom display.

Finally, it just leaves us to say that we really cannot wait to meet you all in September, for the first of what we hope will be, many happy years ahead for you and your children at St. Michael's Church School.

Kind Regards,

B Smith

H Daulton

Mrs Becky Smith
Headteacher

Mrs Heidi Daulton
Assistant Head teacher
EYFS and KS1 Lead