

## **Starting School FAQs**

### **When will my child start school?**

All parents and carers have now been sent this information via email. If you have not received this, please contact the school office team.

### **Who will my child's class teacher be?**

Due to being unable to visit children at Nurseries and Preschools, we will be using the children's first two weeks in school to get to know the children; their interests, needs and friendships. After this time we will put together two classes, with assigned teachers and support staff. This information will be shared with parents on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**. If you would like to ask any questions or share information you feel relevant to this decision making, please speak to Mrs Daulton or Mrs Katie Smith during your child's first two weeks in school.

### **What will my child need to take to school with them?**

In September, children will only need to bring a named coat, a small 'comforter' toy (in a named bag) and a hat if it is sunny. The EYFS team will let you know of any other items needed throughout September.

### **Does my child need a water bottle?**

No, the school will be providing a labelled water bottle for each child. This will be washed each day and refilled with clean water.

### **Do I need to provide a packed lunch for my child?**

In England, all children under the age of 7 receive a free school lunch. At St Michael's we offer a hot meal option and a packed lunch option (sandwich, fruit, savoury item and a pudding). You child will be able to choose between a hot meal or school packed lunch meal each morning.

### **My child is a fussy eater, can I provide a packed lunch for them?**

Our school meals are freshly prepared on site each day. The cook is very skilled at hiding vegetables and fruit in the most unassuming foods- one of our favourites is brownies made using parsnips! We suggest that parents ask their children to try the school meal in the first instance, staff will then feed back to parents if their child hasn't eaten much at lunch. During the first two weeks when children will begin to stay for lunch before going home at 1pm is an ideal time to trial this.

### **My child has food allergies, who do I inform?**

In the first instance, please speak to a member of the office team who will discuss this with you and update our school records. The sooner you make us aware the better- we are able to cater for all allergies during lunchtimes.

### **How can I get my child ready to start 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.stmichaelschurchschool.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

**My child is nervous about starting school, what can I do?**

Please reassure your child as much as possible. Share the staff videos with them and talk about the things they might do at school (painting, playing in the water, building and constructing, going outside, making new friends). Your child can also bring a comforter toy to school with them. The adults are all be very excited to see children in September!

**How will I know what my child has been doing at school?**

In the EYFS, we use a programme called Tapestry to communicate the learning, fun and activities that children have been doing each week. We aim to update this as much as possible, but at least once a week. In order to access your child's Tapestry page, you will receive log in details for Tapestry by September 4<sup>th</sup> via email.

**What should my child wear to school?**

All children are expected to wear school uniform. You will be informed which days they will need to wear their PE uniform on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Children with long hair will need to wear their hair tied back each day. We ask that children do not wear earrings on PE days.