

A few months ago we wondered if we would ever get to this point but we were delighted to be able to open the school on Tuesday and welcome back all our families. We have loved having all the children back in the school and are so proud of them and how they are coping with the changes. There are noticeable differences for each class but the children have adapted amazingly and been so sensible. They are a credit to you so thank you for preparing them so well.

We are all adapting and finding our way through these strange times so thank you for bearing with us and having patience. We accept we will not get everything right straight away. I have listened to some suggestions from parents that have been really helpful and we have been able to put some ideas straight into place so thank you. If we work together and adhere to what is being asked of us all then we can keep our school community safe, happy and healthy!

One thing I cannot fix is to make our Car Park bigger! I had hoped the slightly staggered start times would ease the congestion but it still appears to be as bad as ever. Please **DO NOT STOP** in front of the gate, even just to drop off children as this prevents others from getting past and leaving the car park. Once you have dropped off or collected your child, please leave the school site and car park as soon as possible. Please do not congregate and chat to each other. We really do not want a 'second wave' of COVID-19 and the only way of keeping infection rates down and our schools open is to follow this guidance.



**We are so lucky to have a number of new staff join us at St Michael's. Welcome to our two new class teachers, Miss Williamson is our new Year 1 teacher and Miss McCallion is our new Year 3 teacher. We have also had Miss Grossie join our Foundation 2 team and Miss O'Donnell join our Year 3 team. We have felt it very important to invest in additional support to aid our children in their return to school following the huge period of absence. Obviously at the moment, it is harder for staff to chat to parents in the mornings and after school so if you do urgently need to speak to a member of staff, please telephone the school office and an appointment can be arranged. For non-urgent questions and information, continue to use SEESAW for messaging. Teachers will respond to SEESAW messages however do not expect responses outside the normal school day so please avoid sending messages in the evening.**



**A few 'gentle' but very important reminders.....**

**DOGS should not be brought onto the school site under any circumstances unless it is a Guide Dog.**

**On your child's PE Day they must come into school dressed in an appropriate TRACKSUIT and TRAINERS. All children will partake in PE and so please provide what your child needs so they do not feel different to their peers.**



**DO NOT** send children into school in expensive tracksuits. A plain Navy Blue tracksuit is perfect!



**ALL CHILDREN** need a **WATER Bottle** in school. This will be sent home each night to be cleaned.

In Year 1 to 6 children are allowed to bring in a piece of fruit (healthy snack) to eat at break time. Foundation Stage children will be provided with fruit.

Apart from on PE days, all children should wear black school shoes and full uniform. Girls should not wear makeup or have nails painted. No jewellery should be worn except a plain simple stud if children have their ears pierced. This will need to be covered for PE lessons.

**If you wish your child to have milk in school, please ensure this has been paid for via Cool Milk.**

**Emergency Contacts** -If your details have changed over the summer, please notify the school office so we can update them on our system. This is particularly vital at this time. We need phone numbers and EMAIL addresses.

**End of Day Arrangements** - Please make your child's new class teacher is aware of who can pick your child up at the end of the school day. Only Year 6 children are allowed to walk home on their own if parents have signed a permission slip to allow them to do this. Children in other year groups should be collected by an adult

### **SCHOOL DATES 2020-21**

Please be aware of our term dates which are available on the school website. We will NOT authorise any holidays during term time and any holidays taken will result in a penalty notice. They have missed so much learning time over the last few months so every day in school is precious this year!



# TERM DATES

Next week, I will send out a list of DATES for the DIARY. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold class assemblies or all our usual parent workshops this term. We will also be unable to have 'Beginning of Year' class meetings. We are currently in the process of working out how we will hold 'parent/teacher meetings' this term so I will also write with details about this next week.



### **What to do if you have Covid-19 symptoms....**

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test as soon as possible to check if you have Coronavirus. A test is only required if you have one of the key symptoms.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with must also stay at home until you get your result.

### **Our new value for September is**

#### **CO-OPERATION**

It is a perfect value for this month. The children have all been thinking about the importance of co-operating and working together for the common good. If we all follow the school rules, we will all stay safe!



**Thank you again for your patience and understanding at this time. The staff are all so appreciative of your support.**

**Mrs Ralph**

