

7th September 2021

Dear Parents,

We are so excited to welcome you all tomorrow for the first day of term on the first ever day for St Michael's C of E Academy!

Our estates and catering teams along with the teaching and administration staff have all pulled together to make sure the school is ready for the children and I'm delighted with how it has all come together in the last couple of days, the early years provision and the teaching spaces really are wonderful. When you drop off your children tomorrow we will welcome you for a tour and advise you where you will be able to collect your child after their session. We will give you our school menu to take with you so you can select their lunches for the next 3 weeks.

If you haven't already please return your registration documents when you bring your child to school.

As we look forward to this year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure parents about the measures we have in place to prioritise high quality face to face education for children, whilst **minimising risks of any COVID- 19 transmission.**

To support the minimising of risks we have in place our System of Controls which include: regular handwashing, good ventilation, enhanced cleaning as well as following **Government rules on testing and isolation which all parents need to be aware of:**

Children should not come to school with symptoms but book a PCR test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

a new continuous cough

a high temperature

a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If the PCR test is positive, the child must isolate for 10 days and parents will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace who will identify any close contacts and support with next steps. Schools will no longer have responsibility for contact tracing, but please do let us know so we can support with Remote Learning and be extra vigilant for any spread at school.

Other household members will be advised to take a PCR test but can attend school unless they themselves have symptoms or have a positive PCR test.



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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE



If we do have positive cases in school, under Government rules on self-isolation, schools will no longer be sending whole bubbles home. Instead, we will send parents a 'Warn and Inform' letter with information so that they can be extra vigilant too.

Rates of COVID-19 in the South West are high and the whole of the region has been designated an Enhanced Response Area. This means we should be vigilant and play our part in minimising any risks as Torbay's COVID-19 rates remain high.

There are things we can all do to reduce the risks and I would encourage our whole community to work together:

Do

- Wear face coverings in enclosed and crowded spaces, where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). Adults encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

The Government continues to encourage all over 16 to ensure they are vaccinated to protect themselves and others. Torbay Council have been working hard to ensure people can easily access these by calling their GP, the national booking service <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination>

or calling 119 plus and there are sessions in the walk in centre below:

Riviera International Centre, Chestnut Avenue Torquay TQ2 5LZ

Thursday 16 September: 8:30am to 11:30am Riviera International Centre, Torquay (Pfizer First and Second Dose)

This website has the most up to date information: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/coronavirus/vaccine/>



Our school staff will minimise the risk by LFD testing twice a week, wearing face coverings in any crowded areas inside of the school as well as social distancing when meeting with parents on the playground.

Like all schools, we will have an outbreak management plan which would be put in place, with support from Public Health England, should an outbreak occur and this would see 'tighter' measures.

Thank you for all your support as we work together as one school family to strive for the very best for all our children, their families, our staff and our wider Paighton community.

Best wishes

Mrs Edwards

Head of St Michael's C of E Academy