



# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH IN WALES (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

I hope that you had a lovely break with your families over the summer and it was lovely to have the children back with us for a few days last week and they all seemed very happy to be here. We extend an especially warm welcome to our new starters across the school and we look forward to getting to know you all in the coming weeks and months. We also welcome Mrs. Georgia Jones to our team of Teaching Assistants, who will be working mostly with Class 3 this year.

We have already started to plan ahead for the term and as you will see from the dates below, we are planning our 'normal' events, but please bear in mind that these are subject to change based on the public health situation nearer the time.

## **Current Covid-19 guidance and arrangements**

As the letter from the Local Authority sent to you a few weeks ago outlined, we are returning to school with very similar restrictions in place as the summer term.

The children remain in class 'bubbles' and there is no mixing between contact groups during the day.

Staff continue to wear face coverings when in close contact with the pupils and in all communal areas of the school.

All staff and pupils continue to practise good hand hygiene with regular hand washing and sanitising throughout the day.

All visitors to school are still required to wear face coverings, so we ask that you still do so when collecting your children from school please.

Arrangements for entry and exit points for each class were sent out last week and thank you for your co-operation in using these effectively last week.

There are two significant changes to previous arrangements.

The first is that the school day has changed back to its original times of 8.55a.m. – 3.15p.m. for all pupils.

We ask that in the morning, children do not arrive earlier than 8.45a.m. and gates and doors will be closed until this time.

The second change is related to self isolation rules in case of positive Covid-19 tests at school or within your households. As you will have seen in the media over the summer, the Welsh Government are extremely keen to avoid whole contact groups having to isolate as was the case last year, which caused many hours of school to be missed for thousands of pupils. We were very fortunate to avoid any such instances at St. Michael's.

The new arrangements for positive cases in school or at home are as follows:

1. People who test positive must self-isolate for 10 days, as previously.
2. People aged 18 or over who are not fully-vaccinated, or were fully-vaccinated overseas, must self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.
3. Fully-vaccinated people (vaccinated in the UK) aged 18 or over and children do not have to self-isolate if they are contacts.
4. Fully-vaccinated people (vaccinated in the UK) aged 18 or over and children who are contacts of a positive case will instead be advised to take PCR tests on Days 2 and 8 following their last contact with the positive case.

5. If at any point they develop symptoms, they must self-isolate and seek a PCR test. If negative, they can return to school if symptom-free. If they test positive, they must self-isolate (as per Point 1).

Test and trace will advise when you report a positive case as they will if we have a positive case at school. We ask that if anyone in your household does test positive or if your child is contact traced to a positive case that you please inform us of this, as we can then keep a closer eye on any signs of symptoms at school.

All of the above guidelines and restrictions will be reviewed regularly by the Local Authority and the school and we will let you know of any changes as the term progresses.

### **Reminders and general information**

Can I politely remind parents that the car park at the front of school is for staff only at all times of day and we request that parents who are dropping off children for either school or breakfast club use alternative parking arrangements please.

Emergency contact and consent forms were sent home with all children last week and we would appreciate a prompt return of this information please. Also, please note that there are two sides to complete.

Swimming lessons for our pupils at Maldwyn are restarting this week, with Class 4 being the first to swim. Other classes will have the opportunity to attend lessons during the year.

We are always extremely grateful for the work of the Friends of the School and the funds that are raised to enhance our pupils' experiences at school. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact the office and we will let you know who you need to speak to.

### **Breakfast and after school clubs**

Breakfast club is available to pupils of all ages from 8.10a.m. every day for a cost of £1 per session. Please contact the office for more information.

Today marks the launch of our After School Club, The Later Lambs, for the very first time. The club has been provided following consultation with parents and very many of you have stated that you would make use of the provision if available.

The club will be run by Ms. Pugh, Miss. Phillips, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Cornell and is available 5 days a week from the end of the school day until 5.14p.m.

Information packs have been sent to many families at the end of last term but if you require more information, please contact Mrs. Lewis.

Please make use of this opportunity and we hope that the club becomes an established part of our provision at St. Michael's.

Many thanks for your continued support,  
Mr. Phillips

## Dates for Diary

Please be advised that dates for events are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions or may change to remote events rather than face to face.

<b>September</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> – Pumpkin Party – Class 1 and 2	21 <sup>st</sup> – Christingle Service 10a.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> – Start of term	21 <sup>st</sup> – Parents evening Year 3-6	22 <sup>nd</sup> – End of term
6 <sup>th</sup> – After School Club opening	22 <sup>nd</sup> – Last day of first half term	<b>January</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> – Class 4 first swimming session	<b>November</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> – Start of Spring term
15 <sup>th</sup> – Governors meeting	1 <sup>st</sup> – Pupils return to school	
21 <sup>st</sup> – Flu immunisation – all pupils	10 <sup>th</sup> – Governors meeting	
23 <sup>rd</sup> – Technocamps online visit - Class 2 and 3	12 <sup>th</sup> – Children in Need	
24 <sup>th</sup> – MacMillan Coffee event – Pupils only	<b>December</b>	
27 <sup>th</sup> – Start of ‘Focus Week’ - Sustainability	8 <sup>th</sup> – Governors meeting	
29 <sup>th</sup> – Harvest Service	14 <sup>th</sup> – Christmas Production 1.45p.m.	
<b>October</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> – Christmas Production 6p.m.	
4 <sup>th</sup> – Start of ‘Assessment week’	16 <sup>th</sup> – Foundation Phase party	
19 <sup>th</sup> -Parents evening Year 3-6	17 <sup>th</sup> – Key Stage 2 party	

We are awaiting dates for possible sporting events.