

Information For All Parents

This guidance is for parents so you understand what the next phase of early education will look like at St. Michaels. In the guidance, there is important information regarding meals, early education and childcare provision for our children as well as specific information for those returning.

Parents of children returning - IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU READ THIS AND ARE ABLE TO ACT ON ALL THE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE BRINGING YOUR CHILD BACK TO the Family Centre

Proposed date of re-entry for working parents is currently 3rd June 2020*

*(*May be subject to change dependent upon staff, government advice and safety measures)*

When will St. Michael's be opening on for all working parents and other children?

We will be following the Government guidance on reopening the family centre to all working parents if it is safe to do so, we will aim to open on **the 3rd June to these parents and children**. This allows us to respond to any changes in guidance after the next review by the Government on the 28th May. It also ensures that on the 1st and 2nd of June we can train all staff, further review our cleaning and hygiene resources and finalise health and safety measures.

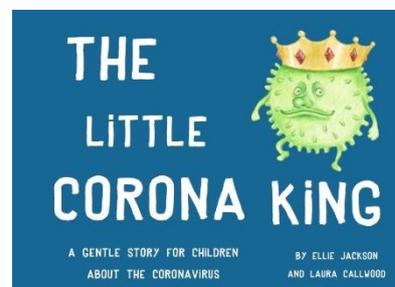
For children starting reception in September the current plan is that these children would return week commencing **22nd June 2020**.

For all other children it is likely to be September 2020

Do I have to send my child back to the family centre?

No. It is your choice. You can make the decision based upon the DfE guidance for parents and the information we are sending you in this letter: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

The Government would like those parents that are not able to work from home to return to work if it is safe to do so, therefore we are offering these parents the choice of childcare. We will be encouraging social distancing where possible, good hygiene practices and regular hand washing throughout the day.



Will my child be with their normal keyworker and group?

We hope to be able to keep children with their key-worker and in the same key group as previous, however the children will be in smaller 'bubbles'. Each bubble will have their own key-staff the intention this is an adult that your child is used to.

Will my child be with their friends?

Children will be in key-group 'bubbles'. Each bubble is likely to be between 8 and 12 children. This means that your child should be with their friends.

How will the children arrive at/leave family centre?

We intend to have a 1 way flow for parents and children therefore we ask that:

- Please park considerably to avoid overcrowding. Please park further up the road and walk to the family centre if possible.
- Parents to arrive at the main door at booked/allocated time where they will be let in 1 at a time to allow social distancing at the entrance and in the corridor area
- Parents to stand 2m apart with their children if they need to wait to be let in
- Parents to say goodbye to children at the door to the child's room and not enter the room unless it is the essential
- Then parents to leave via the fire exit door at the end of the corridor
- We ask that Parents please do not gather or wait at entrances after drop off- we will ask you to move on.
- Children will be supported to wash their hands as they arrive in the room and before going to play.
- At the end of the day we will rota pick up times to enable parents and children to leave safely. Again we ask that you move on quickly to avoid crowding when collecting your child.



Will children be made to keep a 2m social distance?

- We will encourage the children to maintain sensible distancing in each room by encouraging children to play alongside others with resources and materials. We will try not to mix children with other groups during the day unless it is safe to do so. Government guidance states that it may not be possible for younger children to social distance and they can mix with the children in their bubble.
- We have separate, toilets and wash basins in each room. Outside exits from the room will be used to access the garden area as normal.
- We will have a 'one-flow' system inside family centre so that we do not need to pass closely in corridors.
- We encourage **Only 2 children** to be in the toilet areas at a time.

How will out-side play-time work?

Each group will be given a separate time for outside play. Children will not normally be able to mix with children from other rooms/groups/bubbles. We will have a number of safe activities for children to choose from outside.

Will my child be expected/able to wear a face mask?

Current Government guidance has advised that PPE **is not needed** for children or adults for general use in early years settings. This is because face masks can cause more cross contamination due to children constantly touching their own masks and also where masks are taken on and off and left on surfaces. Adults may wear PPE when administering first aid and during intimate care or if there is a need for close contact.

Will my child have to wear specialist clothing?

Children should wear sensible clothes which are easy to wash, dry and iron (remember they will need to keep shoulders covered during the summer months). We expect all children and staff to wear clean clothing each day to prevent the risk of cross infection.

Sun Cream and Sun Protection

Could parents apply sun cream to their child before they arrive at the centre and if possible to be a long lasting all day (8hours) sun cream. Parents to provide a suitable sun hat and children to wear t-shirt or other clothing to cover neck and shoulders

Will the routine be back to normal?

We hope to keep the routine as normal as possible however the children will be in their bubble whenever practicable, every day. We will add in additional time outside for activities where the weather allows. You should not notice too many changes as we want it to appear as normal as possible, for our children however, we will be limiting and changing our resources on a rota basis. With resources being deep cleaned between use in keeping with government guidelines. For the older children some of the time will be spent focusing on getting to grips with the emotional aspects and experiences of lock down if needed.



Will my child be able to eat lunch with their friend?

Lunches will be eaten in Wise Owl room (Saddlebow Road) which will be cleaned both before and after lunch they will sit with others from their bubble. After the children have eaten, they will go back to their normal room or outside to play. For those children bringing a packed lunch, there will be a labelled trolley in the corridor outside the kitchen for you to put your lunch box on.

What will happen if my child gets upset?

The staff in each bubble will use their judgement about getting close to children and use PPE when needed. Although there will not be as much contact as before, we would never leave a child in distress.

If I keep my child at home now, can I change my mind later on?

Yes. However, we might not be able to offer you a place at a later date if all of the spaces have been allocated. We need to know well in advance of any changes to your plan's to allow for staffing.

What happens if a child becomes unwell?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. A window should be opened for ventilation.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate toilet area. This area will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. We are advised not to visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone

with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their group within their childcare/early education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole group. The settings will be observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, therefore closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

I am a key worker - Can my child attend the Family Centre?

Yes. Key worker children are our main priority as per Government direction. We will continue to provide childcare for this group every day with keyworker staff. As numbers of keyworker children go up, then our provision for other groups will have to be reduced. We will keep this under constant review.

My child has not been attending - Will the children of key workers be in their room?

Yes – the Key worker children that have been attending will continue to attend and your child will join their group bubbles. This will allow us to look after more keyworker children if the need increases.

Is it totally safe for my child to return?

We cannot guarantee that your child will not become ill, or that we can totally eradicate cross infection. This is just the same for any public space such as supermarkets etc. However, we will train our staff well, follow all of the safety advice, provide the resources for staff to use and make it as safe as possible. We will review procedures each day and monitor our systems to make sure staff are adhering to them. Only you can decide if you would like your child to return.

What will be lunch provision?

Parents will be able to choose either to provide a healthy packed lunch or a hot meal that will be prepared in our kitchen.

All children will use separate drinking cups each day which will go through the dishwasher daily.

Behaviour expectations of children

It will be vitally important that children do not put other children and staff at risk. We will spend time supporting children with handwashing and other routines as needed on return to the family centre.

We will promote:

Follow instructions on the social distancing as appropriate

Telling an adult if I feel unwell;

Not bring things/toys into centre from home, or take things home from setting

Only use the resources and equipment provided by the family centre

Follow good hygiene rules: coughing and sneezing into elbow or tissue (catch it-bin it-kill it);

Follow good hand hygiene – use soap and water for 20 seconds/ hand sanitiser;

All the guidance in this letter is subject to change and reviewed as required. I hope you find it helpful and informative to enable you to make decisions based on what you think is best for your child. I also hope that it helps you to feel confident that all staff in centre are working hard to ensure it is as safe as possible.

Please get in touch if you have any queries or issues we can help with.

Please note that you will receive a separate email to confirm your child's place and allocated start time.