



June 26th 2020

Dear Parents, Carers,

I hope you are well and enjoying this period of fine weather and sunshine.

It has been wonderful for the staff at St Michael's to welcome back all our children to school this week. This has been a very difficult time for us all, in so many ways. While everyone must acknowledge the challenges of home learning (particularly for those parents combining teaching and work), supermarket queues and the barrage of daily reporting, one light has shone throughout; the response of the country in crisis and the love expressed by our children 'for the people who help us'. The rainbows drawn freely or with children's handprints have become a symbol of solidarity throughout the pandemic; those created by our children, adorning the school's railings have been enjoyed and appreciated by the whole village. This week, we have all felt uplifted and benefitted from hearing their stories of lockdown, and have experienced the joy that only a school filled with children can bring.

Gavin Williamson, rightly acknowledged the impact of Covid on our children's well-being; notably the restrictions imposed that prevented them from being in school and seeing their friends. The government is committed to ensuring measures are in put place to allow as many, if not all children, to access school in September. At St Michael's we are proud of all we have achieved in enabling children in all year groups to spend time in school, with their friends and teachers, before the start of the summer break. I also recognise how this time in school, is providing parents with a very welcome and much needed respite. We all 'clap' your teaching skills! The children have all expressed how the best part of being in school is seeing their friends once more and enjoying playing together- safely of course!

Talking of play, I am really pleased to let you know, using the same approach that allowed the school to open safely, **BA Sport, run by Barry Agar and his team in school**, are offering an activity camp, at St Michael's School, throughout the summer holidays. This will enable the children to continue to

safely meet with their friends, outside home. Most importantly, the children are very familiar with Barry and the coaches.



Further details including risk assessments and booking details can be found on the '**Holiday Camp**' tab, on the school website.

Governors

Mr Phil Watkinson, a parent at St Michael's, has stepped down as Chair of Governors; Rebecca Smith, will be serving as the interim Chair until July 2021. On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to express our thanks to Phil for his support and commitment to the school, particularly during our recent Ofsted inspection.

Becky, as many of you may recall, has served a period as Chair at St Michael's, was a former parent, and knows the school well.

Claire Grosvenor, is also new to the governing body and a former parent. She will be joining the Finance Committee.

Reports

Reports will be sent home to parents, either by hand or posted, on July 13th 2020. This has been an unprecedented time in schools, particularly in relation to statutory assessments, such as SATS and phonic checks. In line with government guidance and most primary schools, all teachers, in all year groups at St Michael's, have used their knowledge of the children until March 20th to predict a child's final, end of year attainment.

Transition

Historically, the school would designate a special morning for all pupils from reception to year 5, to 'move up' and spend time with their receiving teacher in July. Year 6 would normally spend 2 days at Charters becoming familiar with routines and meeting their future form tutors. This year we have needed to be very creative in our approach to transition. Year 6 will benefit from a range of activities in school and those provided by Charters online. For those pupils in years' Reception to Year 5, they were informed personally, of their new teachers, by letter and there is a designated 'Transition' tab on the web site, where individual class teachers have prepared their own welcoming videos that will appear next week.

In addition, teachers across the school have, where appropriate, visited the classes of children they will be receiving in September.

Meet the Teacher

At present, we anticipate we will still need to restrict parents' access to school in September. The plan is for teachers to arrange to call the parents of their new classes for 2020/21, at an agreed time, either at the end of this term, or at the beginning of the autumn term. More details will follow.

A very sincere thankyou to all our parents for your continued support, patience and understanding during this unprecedented time for schools. As always, the staff team and governors at St Michael's have the best interests of the children and their families at heart. I have every confidence, that by continuing to work together, we can minimise the impact of Covid and ensure the well-being and attainment of all our children.

Warmest wishes

L Anderton

Headteacher