

July 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents, Carers,



This has been an unprecedented year for us all; as we fast approach the end of the academic year I am prompted to reflect how the whole school community has come together, in the face of adversity, to do the best we can for the children and families.

The phased opening of the school and home learning presented us all with individual challenges and we never felt more in need of reassurance and compassion to support us to navigate this uncharted territory. At St Michael's, I am immensely proud of my staff, their professionalism and their response and ability to overcome their own anxieties to meet the needs of all the children in our care. It is important to remember, many of the teachers have families of their own and children themselves to home school. Some members of staff have experienced particularly difficult times.

The words of kindness and appreciation expressed by so many parents has provided a huge boost and your ongoing support is valued. Thank you to all those families for taking the time to drop a line and enquire about the staff's wellbeing. The following letter from the Chair of Governors, also recognises how critical staff co-operation has been in allowing us to open to all year groups before the end of term:

*On behalf of the Governing Body I wanted to write to say a huge thank-you.*

*Over recent months the Coronavirus Pandemic has impacted all areas of our lives. The possible effects on our children, their learning, well-being, and general happiness has been a significant concern. Everyone will have been touched by their own personal challenges through this period, yet you have given so much to the St Michael's community.*

*Since March, the response from the school has been amazing. Very quickly you moved to provide remote learning for the children, giving them the opportunity to remain engaged with the school and continue with learning activities whilst also providing structure to their day. Some of you also returned immediately to school to open for the children of key workers and our most vulnerable young people. Many of you have worked late into the evening, across the weekends and through your holidays to make this possible and we are very grateful.*

While we recognise the contribution of the staff throughout this time, it is important to remember the resilience and positive attitude demonstrated by our children. We are all so immensely proud of their behaviour and grateful for their exuberance and enthusiasm for learning and school. Despite all the restrictions, being in school at present is so uplifting for us all.

The teachers have asked me to pass on their appreciation to the parents for their involvement and helpful feedback with the online learning experiences and for assisting the children to access the blogs and teacher chat forums.

Plans are in place to welcome all the children back to school in September. Although government guidelines for opening safely will continue to impose operational challenges, we are all very positive about the autumn term and having the children all back together as one class, in one 'bubble'. Please continue to visit our website for possible updates on the school's response to Covid.

### **School Lunch in September**

Throughout the phased opening, we have continued to provide free school meals, in the form of 'grab bags' to all pupils attending school in reception, years 1 and 2. We are currently working with Wilson Jones to safely provide hot meal options, as usual, across the school in September. Please refer to the current menu on the school's website.

### **Meet the Teacher Meetings**

Current restrictions prevent us from inviting parents into school as usual, for parent/teacher conferences. The plan at present is for teachers to speak with parents or carers at a mutually agreed time, over the phone. More details will follow at the beginning of the autumn term.

### **Summer Camp**

Just a reminder, BA Sports will be running a summer camp over the holiday at St Michael's School. Please see the website for more information.

### **Uniform**

Please see the school's website under 'Virtual School' for information about the school's uniform policy and how to order.

## **Drop off and Collection of Pupils in September**

Please refer to appendix 1 of 'Arrangements we will be putting into place when the school opens fully in September'. This document can be found on the Covid 19 tab on the school's website.

## **Dates for the diary 2020/21**

### **INSET DAYS:**

**Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**

**Monday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Friday February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Monday April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Further information about when we can safely invite parents back into school for assemblies and class performances will be made available as soon as we receive further guidance from the DfE.**

### **Staffing**

Mrs Klinker will be assuming maternity leave at the end of this term. This is a very exciting time for her and her family and we wish them all every happiness for the future.

Mrs Rainer will be covering Mrs Klinker's maternity leave as part time Assistant Head and year 3 class teacher. Mrs Field will be sharing the role of class teacher in year 3.

Miss Antoniou and her family will be leaving us at the end of this term to settle in Crete. They will be sadly missed by us all at St Michael's but we look forward to hearing about their new schools and life in the sun!

Mrs Thomas, is also leaving St Michael's at the end of this term. She has provided invaluable support to the school during her time with us and we wish her every success in her future career.

We are joined next term by Mrs Banerji, who will be assuming the role of Assistant Head and year 2 class teacher. I know you will all give her a warm St Michael's welcome.

On behalf of the governors and staff, it only remains for me to wish all our families and children a very restful, safe and happy summer break. I look forward to seeing you all, in September.

Warmest regards

L Anderton

Headteacher