



St. Michael's C.E. Primary School
learning together through love, friendship, forgiveness and faith.

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents, Carers,

On Wednesday, the government announced that **Schools in England will not be able to reopen to all pupils after the February half-term, but could do so from March 8th.**

Boris Johnson was quick to point out this "depends on lots of things going right".

This is not the news any of us wanted to hear, particularly teachers and support staff in schools, who continue to make every effort to deliver an **inclusive** curriculum remotely, provide continued support to the most vulnerable pupils and families, against a backdrop of parental challenge, complaint and comparison.

Headteachers nationally, in maintained schools, have expressed their concerns about the effect on teachers when their performance, becomes the focus of parent and public scrutiny. Live lessons at present, are being seen as the 'gold standard' and the best forms of remote learning as digital. I would suggest, it is the quality of the teaching and feedback, rather than the remote method, that is most important.

It is helpful to share Ofsted's findings following their extensive research into 'What's Working Well in Remote Education'. Please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>

In this document, Ofsted has added weight to the debate, by publishing guidance for schools and parents to dispel some common myths about remote education

At St Michael's, we are using a range of digital platforms and remote learning strategies. Class teacher's use their professional judgement to decide on the most appropriate combination of methods, for their year group. Please see the school's remote learning policy on the web site:

https://st-michaels-cofe.eschools.co.uk/cms_manage/edit_page/488442

St Michael's is proud of its record for providing a personalised and holistic approach to each and every one of the children in our care. Throughout both lockdowns and despite the challenges on staff time and workload, this remains our priority. I recognise there will always be areas for review and improvement with any learning provision. The teachers have regular meetings to share good practice and stay abreast of recent digital developments, but planning for remote learning is not the only challenge and commitment faced by leaders and teachers in maintained schools, when settings are closed in lockdown.

Jules White, Headteacher and leader of the **Worth Less?**, an organisation, which campaigns for support and funding in state schools, reminds us:

"Throughout the crisis, state schools were instrumental in protecting children of low-paid key workers, students from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with special educational needs. On much, much less funding than private schools, families of vulnerable children – and many others – were supported."

To those parents who have taken the time to express their appreciation for the quality of remote provision and communication being provided by teachers at St Michael's, thank you. I also appreciate the time taken by parents with concerns, to contact me and allow the school time to respond. Unfortunately, there are always parents who choose to 'safely' air their criticism of the school on closed forums. I would urge these parents to contact the school office and allow the SLT to address their concerns.

I would like to remind parents, that we are all in this 'together' and that the teaching team and support staff at St Michael's are experiencing the

same frustrations and anxieties. Please keep those messages of support coming – they really boost staff morale. Schools will be re-opening and staff will need the resilience and energy to meet the demands of 'Catch Up' head on!

Finally, a huge thank you to the anonymous parent who organised a personal delivery of brownies today -they were so appreciated.

Take care and stay safe,
Warmest wishes,
L. Anderton
Headteacher

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

Dates: 29-31 January

Time: Any

Duration: 1 hour

Location: Your garden or balcony



giving
nature
a home

Instructions

1. **Pick a time.** You can choose any hour between 29 and 31 January. So whether you're an early bird or a night owl, you can still take part.

2. **Tell us what you see.** Count the birds you see in your garden or from your balcony*. Ignore any birds that are still in flight. To avoid double-counting, just record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time – not a running total.*This year our advice is to take part in the safety of your own home. This could include a birdwatch from your window if you overlook a green space or courtyard.

Submit your results.

Online: You can submit your results online at rsqb.org.uk/birdwatch from **29 January until 19 February**.

By post: If you'd rather send your results by post, you can download a submission form. Please post your results before 15 February.



AWARDS



The following children were awarded a certificate for being “RESPONSIBLE”

Year 6 Cru & Lottie

Year 5 Phoebe & Benjy

Year 4 Zara T & Madiha

Year 3 Xanthe & Oliver

Year 2 Henry & Finn

Year 1 Bethany & Grayson

Reception Isla & George



Housepoints

House winner—Yellow

Class winner Year 5

348 Housepoints

Important Dates	
<i>HALF TERM —Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February</i>	
APRIL	
Thursday 1st April	Term ends
<i>SPRING HOLIDAY—Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April</i>	
Monday 19th April	Children return to school
MAY	
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May	Term ends
<i>MAY HOLIDAY— Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June</i>	
JUNE	
Monday 7th June	Children return to school
JULY	
Friday 23rd July	Term Ends