



St. Michael's R.C. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Chapman

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Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have heard the Prime Minister's briefing last night. Boris Johnson indicated that the government believes it may be in a position to implement a phased reopening of schools from 1st June. In his speech last night, he talked about the conditional plan that would start with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

I suspect many of us will have unanswered questions from the briefing: Will my child have to attend? How will children socially distance? What will the school day look like? As it stands, I have as much information as you do therefore I don't have the answers to these questions. Further written guidance is being released today which will hopefully give clarity to the points that were shared regarding the conditional plan to reopen schools for certain year groups. Many of our parents, children and staff will feel nervous about returning to school. I understand this completely. The staff at St Michael's are dedicated to the care and education of young people- they do not want to see classrooms empty for a day longer than they need to be. However, **the first priority has to be the safety of everyone in our school community.**

Leaders have been planning for the reopening of schools for several weeks now and will continue to do so to ensure that whenever we do open, robust safety measures are in place. We will continue to follow government guidance and scientific evidence to keep our school community safe. **We will only open when it is safe to do so.** In the short term, nothing has changed and we are still being asked to stay at home, stay alert and wash our hands regularly.

I'd like to take this opportunity once again to thank you all for your courage and support over the past 8 weeks. The community of Elswick has always been unique in its strength and unity, however in recent times this is even more evident. It is a privilege to a part of such an amazing community, of which St Michael's is at the heart of everyone. If we continue to work together as one school family of faith, supporting each other where necessary, we will get through this upcoming period of uncertainty and grow together.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs C Chapman
Headteacher

