



St. Michael's R.C. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Chapman

9th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are safe and well.

As you are aware the Prime Minister announced the government's intention for a phased return within schools.

St Michael's have a two-part phased return plan:

Phase One- Year 1 and Year 6 to return on Monday 15th June

Phase Two- Reception and Nursery- date to be confirmed

Prior to the school opening for more pupils we have been required to do a risk assessment. On the 11th May the Government and Public Health England (PHE) published guidance which set out how to operate safely. This risk assessment has been completed following government guidance in consultation with The Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, the wider community, employees and Public Health. Our school's risk assessment can be found on our school website (www.st-michaels.school).

Governors are asking staff and children to return because we believe it is safe for them to do so. Whilst parents, pupils and staff may be anxious about returning, as long as the appropriate measures are in place and adhered to, we are confident our procedures will keep us safe.

We will be creating year group zones within school, with bubbles of no more than 10 pupils in each bubble. Staff and pupils will be assigned a bubble to work in and these bubbles will remain until the end of the academic year. We will have more members of staff for each zone at lunchtime, to support practical arrangements e.g. safe toileting and to facilitate first aid.

Attendance

- This week, we have contacted all parents with pupils in **Year 6** and **Year 1** to confirm their attendance in school from Monday 15th June.
- There is no pressure to send your children to school, as we recognise that you know your children and personal situation best and that there are many factors which will influence your decision.
- Due to government guidance, no family will be penalised for keeping their child at home during this period.
- If a child or a member of staff lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), they can attend their education or childcare setting.
- If a child or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, it is advised they only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to.



- Parents should always follow medical advice if their child or a family member is in a vulnerable category.
- Currently, it is not possible for us to accept siblings of children in the specified year groups (Year 1 and Year 6) other than those who are the children of key workers.

If you have confirmed that your Year 1 or Year 6 child will attend school from Monday 15th June, you will receive a letter in the coming days giving you more information on your child's bubble, including start and finish times.

School logistics and safety considerations:

- Our high standards and expectations for behaviour and work will remain, all children are asked to wear freshly cleaned school uniforms each day.
- Throughout June and July our home learning will continue to be updated weekly for each year group. If your child is remaining at home, I encourage you to use our home learning resources which can be found on the school website.
- Free School Meal vouchers will continue for those pupils who are eligible. If you are receiving FSM vouchers and your child is returning to school, we ask that you provide a healthy packed lunch every day.
- If your child is in Year 1 and you do not receive Free School Meals vouchers, they will receive a free packed lunch from school as part of their entitlement to Universal Free School Meals.
- We will limit all visitors to school to essential services only and appropriate risk assessments and strict hand hygiene will be adhered to.

I am proud to be the Headteacher of our school. It is a privilege to lead such a dedicated group of passionate and caring individuals. I am grateful for your support so far. Our school office is now open during school hours You can contact school on 0191 273 9383 if you have any questions or concerns. Eventually our whole school community will be together again as one. I look forward to that day. Until then, please continue to support one other.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs C Chapman
Headteacher

