



St. Michael's R.C. Primary School

Clumber Street North, Elswick, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7RE

0191 273 9383

enquiries@st-michaels.school

www.st-michaels.school

Headteacher: Mrs C Chapman

4th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

First of all, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. I really do hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and that you managed to enjoy time with your close family.

I know there is a lot of uncertainty and speculation in the news about whether schools should or should not reopen, and as a parent myself, I completely understand what an anxious time this is for everyone. **Currently, it is our plan to open school for all pupils on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at the usual time.** If this situation was to change, we would make contact by text message in the first instance and publish details on the website and school Facebook page.

The governors and staff at St Michael's continue to have the welfare of our whole community at the heart of all decisions they make. As a school, we have been very clear about the measures we have in place to protect both the children, staff and our wider school community. Our risk assessment is thorough and takes into account the guidance that we are given, and is followed strictly by everyone in school.

When children return to school tomorrow, they will continue to work in isolated class bubbles with set members of staff, their breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered so they are not mixing with any other year groups in the outside areas and they do not share resources between classes. The classrooms are cleaned thoroughly every day and there are extra cleaners on site during the day to clean all communal areas, toilets and touch points throughout the school. St Michael's is only allowing essential visitors into school and we hold any whole school or key stage events virtually. The classrooms are ventilated and doors kept open throughout the day, and staff and parents are expected to wear face coverings at drop off and pick up times. In school, our children are Hygiene Heroes, which was an initiative launched in September to promote correct handwashing and hygiene. Our pupils have responded to this extremely well and have been amazing at following new safety measure and routines. Finally, any child or member of staff, who we suspect could be developing symptoms during the day, is isolated from the rest of their class and sent home as quickly as possible and we insist a test is carried out.

At St Michael's we pride ourselves in the quality of care, guidance and support we offer to our families and so I would urge you, if after reading this letter you are still anxious in any way, to contact us and to allow us to support you in the best way we can.

Finally, a reminder that if you or anyone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19 or is awaiting a test result then you should not send your child in school. In order to stop the spread of the virus we all have a part to play and need to work together to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

As always, I will endeavor to be as honest and open with you as I can be and, should things change, will update you as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs C Chapman
Headteacher

