



St. Michael's R.C. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Chapman

5th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are keeping safe and well and are slowly adapting to this new way of living.

We currently have around 6 children in school, compared to the usual 210. The children who are attending school are mainly children of key workers. We miss the hustle and bustle of school life as school is very quiet without our amazing pupils. We miss their enthusiasm, their thirst for knowledge, their happy faces and the jokes they share with us on a daily basis. We still do not know when we will return to school, but already staff are preparing for that day.

A friend of mine sent me this quote last week. I love it because it reminds me that people are the most precious things in the world, that relationships are what truly make us happy and that we have hope for a brighter future. This period of time will undoubtedly change us, but we will emerge as better people.

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

- Kitty O'Meara

Keeping in touch...

You will have already received a telephone call from your child's class teacher. These calls are a great way to catch up and for your child to share what they have been doing in their spare time with their teacher. It is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have. Our school office is closed however you can contact school by phoning Daniel Tolan, our school Welfare Officer, on 07508362962. You can also contact us via email at enquiries@st-michaels.school. This email account is checked daily.

#One Elswick

Thank you for sending photographs of your child at home for our most recent #OneElswick campaign. If you haven't sent a photograph or piece of work but would like to, you have until Wednesday 6th May to do so. The #OneElswick video will be published on St Michael's Facebook page and website at the end of this week. It is joy to see so many of our pupils doing a range of activities in their spare time.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! For our next #OneElswick project, we invite all pupils (past and present), parents, grandparents, governors and of course the staff to join in clapping in appreciation for all key workers. Simply record a short video of yourself clapping and send it to enquiries@st-michaels.school. Let's join together as one community in appreciation for the work that our key workers do.



Home Learning

While we are missing the children so much in school, you might be worrying about the impact on your child's education. A big change is taking place in your child's life right now; their comfortable, safe, predictable world has been turned upside down. Many of our children are still coming to terms with not seeing their friends on a daily basis. I expect they are all missing their teachers too! The 'Home Learning' section of the website is full of interesting videos and activities to keep your child busy. Whilst we encourage all children to access these resources, your child can learn in other ways too, such as playing a board game, reading a book, doing the gardening or helping you round the house and talking as you go.

On Monday (4th May), many of you collected books and stationary packs from school. If you didn't but you feel your child would benefit from a stationary pack, there will be another opportunity to collect on Monday 11th May 9am-12noon. We also have a small selection of books that you may take to read at home.

Free School meal vouchers

Edenred, the company who are supplying the food vouchers, are continuing to experience difficulties in distributing the e-code vouchers effectively. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals then you should have received an email and a voucher from Edenred. If you are having technical issues or not able to access your voucher, please let us know immediately. We are contacting Edenred every day on your behalf to sort out any problems. In the meantime, if you need support with food parcels please let us know and we will arrange this for you.

And finally...

Try to remain as positive as possible and have faith that we will rise from this crisis. We are here for you all. If you are concerned about anything or anyone, please contact us. Until then take care, keep talking, keep caring, keep safe. We are one community and together we are stronger.



Yours Sincerely

Mrs C Chapman
Headteacher