



2nd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Mark 13:33-37

³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

The attention Jesus encourages us to have is not a passive approach to life in the sense of "wait and see what happens." The Lord invites us to be vigilant. It is not enough to just pay attention to Christ. We are invited to look at all things together with Christ. He wants our hearts and minds to be transformed in him and his words. He wants us to be willing to work with Him in His saving work in us and in the world. Those who are always willing to work with Him will not be disappointed. During this season of Advent as we prepare for the birth of Christ we must be on alert so we did not miss all the blessings that surround us, even in these difficult times.

School Bags

We realize that the children have found it very difficult not taking home reading books. The school has invested in lots of books to develop children's reading independence and to develop their love of reading, so it's really important that we are able to share these books with the children. As a result, from Tuesday, 5th January 2020, we will return to having school bags in school. The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are encouraged to have the St Michael's school bag; children in years 3-6 may bring a school rucksacks; however, bags will be used only for reading books and essential letters/notices at this point. Due to the current circumstances, we need to try to mitigate any risks associated with bringing in items from home; therefore, we will not be sending home reading records at this point for parents to sign and return when they have read with their children. **Reading books will be handed out/changed on Mondays only and need to be returned on Thursdays only. Books will not be dealt with outside of these times.**

Christmas Cards

Unfortunately, we are not able to allow the exchange of Christmas cards this academic year due to the current circumstances. I realize that some parents may want to exchange gifts with other children or thank the teachers with a token Christmas gift; we will permit this to happen in the spirit of the season. However, the staff do not expect gifts and would be perfectly happy with just a kind word that acknowledges their effort particularly at this difficult time.

Christmas Lunch

This year the children will be having their Christmas lunch on **Wednesday, 16th December**. The children will eat Christmas lunch with their teachers in their bubbles. It will be a festive event and we would encourage all children to have a school dinner that day.

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day will be on **Wednesday, 16th December**. We are inviting all pupils to take part by wearing a Christmas jumper and making a £1 donation. Payments can be made on the school money website.

Coronavirus Update

Lockdown has ended and we will return to a system of 3 tiers; London is currently in tier 2 so we need to all be mindful of the restrictions within that tier. We need to continue to be vigilant to ensure that we all remain safe. Please continue to support the school rules and expectations to keep us all safe:

- Please ensure that you are practicing social distancing at the gate in the morning and for pick up at the end of the day.
- Parents need to drop off and collect their children promptly.
 - ❖ Nursery - 8:30 - 11:30
 - ❖ Reception - 8:30 - 3:05
 - ❖ Years 1 and 2 - 8:40 - 3:15
 - ❖ Years 3 and 4 - 8:40 - 3:15
 - ❖ Year 5 and 6 - 8:50 - 3:25

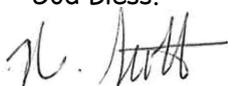
Please do not enter the school premises if you or a member of your household are showing symptoms of coronavirus; this includes if you are waiting for a test result. The most common symptoms of coronavirus are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature and/or
- a loss, or change in, your normal sense of test of smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms at any point during the school year you should seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/or-by-phoning-111>.

If a child has symptoms of coronavirus they should get a test. If this is not possible, then the child should self-isolate for 10 days. If your child is not in school, please call the school to let us know why they are not in school so we can track absences and follow up as appropriate. **If your child is off with coronavirus symptoms we need to know for the safety of the entire school community.**

God Bless.



N. Scott
Head Teacher