



25th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you and your family remain safe and well.

We have completed another week of remote learning! This is a new and strange time for us; all we can ask of each other is to do the best we can each day.

Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

'Come, follow me'. The ways of following Jesus are as varied as people themselves are. But they always involve breaking free from what we were before. We are true disciples when we challenge ourselves with the question: 'How would Jesus act in the situation I'm in right now?'. During these difficult times we must remind ourselves that God is in control.

Live Lessons

We know that your children are missing their friends and their teachers in this challenging time so we have organized weekly live lessons to provide an opportunity for learning to happen with their class. **Initially this will be a weekly story/English lesson on Wednesdays starting on 27th January 2021.** The lessons will be via Google Meet and the code to access the Google Meet session will be available in your child's Google Classroom. Please see attached guide for accessing Google Meet. We will share the rules and behaviour for accessing the live lessons before Wednesday. **Please do not call the office to enquire about the code because they will not have this information.** The timetable for these live lessons via Google Meet is below:

Time	Year Group
9:30	Year 2
10:00	Year 1
10:30	Reception
11:00	Year 3
11:30	Year 4
1:30	Year 5
2:00	Year 6
2:30	Nursery

Remote Learning Timetable

The remote learning timetable has been updated please see attached updated timetable. We are mindful of the amount of time that children are spending in front of a computer and have added some non-screen time activities.

Submitting work

The teachers are setting work each day for the pupils following the remote learning timetables that you were sent last week and that are also available on your child's Google Classroom. Please ensure that your child is logging on each day to complete their work. We do understand that families maybe sharing devices so it's ok if your child submits their work late, the teacher will still mark it. However, I would ask that parents ensure that their children are not staying up later than they would normally (if they were in school), in order to complete and submit work. The teachers are working hard to provide lessons that are engaging and are presented in a manner that is easy to understand for all.

Pre-recorded lessons

Teachers are pre-recording some of the explanations for English and Maths lessons so that the children have a clear explanation. Most teachers will record their own videos each week and will sometimes supplement videos and explanations from other sources, i.e. Oak National Academy and You Tube. However, if your child does not understand the work please send the class teacher a message so that she can help. The children should read the instructions and look at the messages in the stream before they attempt any of the work that their teacher has set. I would encourage parents to have a look at what their children are doing and ensure that you are happy with the standard/quality of their work before they submit it to the teacher. You will of course know your children best and know how much support they will need in order to complete the work provided. We are not currently providing live lessons but will review that shortly.

Accessing Google Classroom

We have loaned some school laptops for children who have no devices at home, however many of our devices are currently being used for the key worker and vulnerable children who are in school. However, your child can access Google Classroom via Xbox or PlayStation 4.

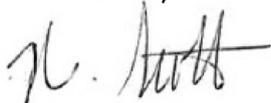
Advice and support for parents

The school has an advice and support section on our website that is regularly updated with information for parents during lock down <https://st-michaels.newham.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/advice-and-support/>

Free School Meals

The government announced on Wednesday, 13th January the funding available for schools to send supermarket vouchers through Edenred to pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria and are entitled to free school meals. We will be organizing this over the next week and will be in touch with the parents of children who are entitled. We used this service last year and it can be challenging to book your vouchers due to the volume of people who are accessing the same site so we would ask that parents are patient with us about getting the vouchers out. If you think that your child is entitled to free school meals please complete the form below: <https://www.newham.gov.uk/schools-education/free-school-meals/2?documentId=502&categoryId=20004>

God Bless,



Natasha Scott
Executive Head Teacher