



3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you and your family remain safe and well.

The prime minister announced last week about the possible re-opening of schools from the 8<sup>th</sup> March, we do not yet have any information about that or if that date is confirmed. Once we know more we will be in touch with you about how the school re-opening will work at St Michael's.

### **Mark 1:21-28**

#### ***Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit***

*<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" <sup>25</sup> "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.*

*<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.*

We live in a world where we experience violence, greed, hunger and immoral actions. This means that, we sometimes struggle to believe that we will overcome when times are difficult. Let's ask God to help us to see that He is at work in the small signs of love, justice and truth around us.

### **Safer Internet Day**

We will be celebrating **Safer Internet Day** on **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. The theme this year is ***An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world***; there will be a variety of activities on Google Classroom on this day. Safer Internet Day 2021 celebrates the amazing range of information and opportunities online, and its potential to inform, connect and inspire us, whilst also looking at how we can separate fact from fiction.

The campaign focuses on how we can know what to trust online, supporting pupils

to question, challenge and change the online world. It will explore how influence, persuasion and manipulation can appear online and why this may happen. It will also look at the emotional impact navigating a misleading online world can have on pupils and why it is important to create a supportive, critical and questioning culture online that encourages debate and discussion. We want to give the children the skills to support one another and the strategies to spot and speak out against harmful and misleading content online.

We will have virtual Safer Internet Day assemblies led Ms Pereira on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 using the link below:

9:30 - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 [meet.google.com/egp-pbnh-zim](https://meet.google.com/egp-pbnh-zim)

10:30 - Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 [meet.google.com/pyh-hasb-wat](https://meet.google.com/pyh-hasb-wat)

### **Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RHSE)**

Thank you to all the parents who completed our RSHE survey in the autumn term, your feedback has been very helpful. As you may be aware there is a new Relationship, Sex and Health Education curriculum that all schools we be required to implement by summer 2021. We have begun to look at this curriculum and all staff have attended training led by the Diocese of Brentwood about how to teach this new curriculum in St Michael's. We are currently putting together a policy to teach RSHE based on the guidance by the Diocese. As a part of the consultation with parents, we would like to talk to you about what the RSHE curriculum at St Michael's would look like; we have arranged two virtual meetings in order to do this:

**Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 5:00 pm**

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10:00 am**

In order to book your place at this meeting please click on the link below by Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> February

<https://forms.gle/2yTtstgTmAkc6SY19>

Information on the new RSHE curriculum expectations can be found on the website at

<https://st-michaels.newham.sch.uk/our-school/catholic-life/>

### **Live Lessons**

It was fantastic to see all the children logging on for their live lessons last week; they seemed to have grown and developed so much since the end of the Autumn term.

I hope the session was beneficial and that your child enjoy spending time with their class, albeit virtually. There will be another live lesson today, Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February in the same manner as last week.

From the week beginning 8th February we will have two live lessons as follows:

**Monday - Well-being**

**Wednesday - English - Story**

We hope to continue to build up the number of live lessons that we are able to offer. As usual, the code to access the Google Meet sessions will be available in your child's Google Classroom. **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

### **Covid Testing**

As you know there are a number of community testing facilities that have recently opened up in Newham to allow residents to test if they are not symptomatic. As you know, it is possible to have Covid and transmit the virus without showing any symptoms. These community testing centers are now offering testing to children as follows:

- Children aged 16+ can attend community test sites unaccompanied as they are able to consent to medical treatment
- Children aged 12-15 can attend with a parent or guardian and can self-swab under the supervision of that parent or guardian
- Children aged 5-11 can attend with a parent or guardian but the parent or guardian must complete the test on the child
- Testing is not available to under 5's

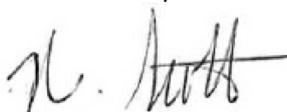
**As I am sure you know, we are not able to test children in school.**

### **Advice and Support for Parents**

The school website has an advice and support for parents section with very useful links for coping during this difficult time please have a look:

<https://st-michaels.newham.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/advice-and-support/>

God Bless,



Natasha Scott  
Head Teacher