



20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

### End of term wishes

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, it has been a busy and challenging term. We leave for our Christmas break with increasing Covid cases and some uncertainty about the possible restrictions in the coming weeks. I will be watching government guidance over the break and will update you on the impact of any new restrictions to school life as soon as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank for your continued support and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a healthy 2022!

### School Uniform

I know many parents often use the Christmas break to replenish their uniform stock as children can grow so quickly! Please note the school uniform expectations on the school website

<https://st-michaels.newham.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/school-uniform/>

Please pay particular attention to the school colours and the need for mid-grey trousers/skirt or pinafore dress. Also the need for girls to wear white socks or grey tights in the winter. It's important that all children are showing how proud they are to be a part of the St Michael's community by wearing the correct school uniform.

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As I am sure you are aware, we are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. In honour of this, there are two bank holidays on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June (during the school's half term break). As a result, schools have been asked to set aside an additional day in their school calendar for this additional bank holiday; **therefore on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> June the school will be closed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We will reopen on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

### Christmas Break

The last day of this term will be on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December at 2:00 pm. We have a staff training day on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 so school will re-open for all pupils on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### Coronavirus Update

As you are aware there is a new variant of concern called the Omicron variant. As a result, the Department for Education (DfE) guidance has changed and staff are required to wear a face covering in communal areas (but not in the classroom), visitors are also required to wear a face covering when in the school as well as pupils in year 7 and above.

We are reviewing our Covid measurements to ensure that we are keeping everyone as safe as possible. However, it is vital that **you do not send your child to school if they have any Covid symptoms.**

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the above symptoms please schedule a PCR test. **If you have scheduled a PCR test, please keep your child at home while you wait for the results.**

### Cycle Confident

The London Borough of Newham is committed to making cycling a safe, enjoyable and practical method of transport in the borough. Anybody who lives, works or studies in the borough is entitled to the following free services:

FREE Cycle Skills: Get tailored training at a level suited to your needs, or book a lesson for the family (with up to three participants)! Choose from Basic (off-road environment), Urban (quiet local roads) or Advanced (complex junctions and busy roads).

<https://www.cycleconfident.com/sponsors/newham/>

God Bless,



N. Scott  
Head Teacher