



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19

As you probably know, HM Government have ordered our closure from the close of school on Friday 20 March, until further notice. Children of **'Key workers'** and **vulnerable children** (ie. those with an EHCP) will be able to attend, if desired, by their families. We now need to make sure you have all the information you need and to reassure you that if you need to contact us, please do.

PROVISION FOR LEARNING

All pupils now have a work pack in which they can continue their learning at home. Further work is available via the school website, underneath the 'Pupil Work Zone' area. We are issuing all pupils with an exercise book so that any online activities can be recorded in there. Hopefully, this should relieve pressure at home and potentially save on printing costs.

IDENTIFYING KEY WORKERS

Within school we hold very little information about the jobs parents have. If you have heard the announcement you will have heard how important it is that **ONLY** these children remain in school. We must also remember that many of our staff have children who will need their parent at home, reducing further our capacity to have large numbers of students in school.

In order for us to identify the students that are able to stay in school for child care for key workers, I ask you to send a text message to 07968 496967, stating your child's name, parents name and the role of the key worker and place of work. Whilst we do not currently have a definitive list of key worker roles, we do know that to qualify for this, **both** parents must be considered to be a key worker. (We will get a list out at some point today) We will then contact all those people who have sent a text message through to confirm whether you qualify or not. If you believe you do qualify and you have not heard from us by 11.00am on Friday morning, please ring in to school.

SATs ASSESSMENTS

These will not now take place. However, it was also clear in the Prime Minister's statement that grades and qualifications will be awarded. Details are not known about how grades will be awarded. It is vital that pupils in all year groups continue to do work that is set by teachers, therefore. Please make sure your son or daughter stays focussed on the educational activities provided and finds time to read each day.

Headteacher	Matt Vella
Deputy Head	Cara Compton-Foster
Chair of Governors	Ed Pyke
Business Manager	Sharon Whatmore



SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF CHILDREN ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Yesterday, we tried to speak to most of these families with our plans to deliver food parcels, where this is wanted. As of Monday 23rd March, we will **no** longer be catering for our pupils on site and will be supporting the government voucher scheme. We are awaiting details about the Government scheme for providing vouchers for supermarkets.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES WHO RECEIVE EXTERNAL AGENCY OR PFSA SUPPORT

Families in our school who are supported by external agencies or with whom we have worked very closely via our PFSA, will on a regular basis, be contacted throughout the period of closure and may be offered visits if it is appropriate.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Julia Martin safeguarding@stmichaelsacademy.co.uk or ring 07535532026 from Monday.

CONTACTING US

If you have any major concerns (other than safeguarding) then please direct these to teachers via class dojo or email: stmichaelsyeovil@educ.somerset.gov.uk or call 07968 496967. We will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as we can but I know you will understand that there will be times when we are unable to respond but we will do the best we can.

We are fully aware that this is an anxious time for everyone. We all feel this. Working together we will be able to make this work and make the best of it that we can.

I must emphasise that for the good of our community, only those children of the families we have contact with, from the two groups outlined above, should come to school from Monday.

With my very best wishes and grateful thanks for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Matt Vella

Head Teacher