



Essex County Council
St Michael's C of E Primary School

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Wednesday, 13 May 2020



Dear

You will no doubt be aware that the announcement was made on Sunday night that schools would begin to reopen, if the scientific data continues to allow this, from Monday 1st June but only for **Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6** children. Further guidance was released the following evening and since then I have been working on how this might be implemented safely at St. Michael's.

Yesterday evening, I met remotely with my Senior Leadership Team: Mrs. Farran, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Marsh and Mr. Bird to discuss our first possible steps. This was insightful because it drew together views from all three year groups as well as for those children with Special Educational Needs. Also, both Mrs. Farran and Mr. Bird have been in school over the past 7 weeks and have been able to see first-hand what adaptations would be needed.

One of the key parts of the guidance is of course is social distancing. Keeping young children 2m apart will be very challenging and it is clear that groups must not mix or interact. We do need to carry out a full risk assessment, but early indications are that due to the size of the rooms, we will not be able to accommodate more than 10 children at once per class; this will mean that a partial week will be offered to all.

Government guidance is clear that parents will not be *penalised* if they choose not to take up this offer and indeed keep their children home due to concerns *over* safety.

We also need to consider continuing the Home Learning and responding to Tapestry / Gmail / Google Classroom for all pupils not attending as well as the safety and well-being of the staff. I also need to maintain staff working from home to continue the telephone calls that have been overwhelmingly well-received and managing to keep the school community together from a distance.

Once I have firmer plans, I will of course update you. Yesterday I sent some early questions to Clare Kershaw (Director of Learning in Essex) and some feedback has already been received this morning. She and her team are liaising with the Department for Education and in due course, she will be writing to all families too.

I know these continue to be challenging times for many, and that the hope of school opening back up was with us all, but it remains my priority to keep the children and staff safe.

Until I know more, please rest assured that in whatever form we can offer a limited re-opening, it will be a fair and equitable offer to all and should you choose not to take this up on safety grounds, your child will not be at a further disadvantage.

In the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe.

Andrew Cumpstey

Head teacher: Mr A. Cumpstey
Assistant Head: Mrs K Farran