

# St John with St Michael CE Primary School



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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support today as we navigate yet another challenging period in school. It has been a calm and pleasant day here at school and we are determined to offer your child the very best educational diet we can, whether they are currently at home or in school.

At this time, we are trying to support the children of our key workers as much as we can. We are grateful for your swift responses and appreciate your cooperation in providing advance notice about the days required for your children so we can plan staff cover appropriately. However today, the local authority has stressed that the purpose of the lockdown is to limit contact between households and reduce transmission of this extremely contagious strain of coronavirus. Therefore we have been asked to reiterate that if you are working at home, pupils should remain at home and access online provision. With the launch of live teaching, this should be easier to manage than last time, especially for the children in KS2. Throughout the day, parents have requested more places and there may be a time that if we reach full capacity, in order to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and the wider community, we will have no choice but to prioritise available places in school following the clear government criteria. We apologise in advance for the potential disruption this may cause, but we are required by law to follow precise protocol to protect the community and the NHS.

From 9am tomorrow, live teaching, via Google Classroom will commence for all pupils. Lessons and activities will also be uploaded onto Google Classroom for you to access, if required. Please note that live teaching does not require your child to be connected to a laptop or device for the entire day (although you may choose to do this). It will be sufficient for them to access the teaching element of each lesson (approximately twenty minutes per lesson) and then they will be able to work on tasks set for the duration of each lesson. Please also be aware that the following devices can be set up for the children to access the live teach element:

- Laptop
- Computer
- iPad / tablet
- Mobile phone
- Smart TV

We are extremely mindful that families may not have adequate technology for all members of the family to access simultaneously and that is why lessons and activities will also be uploaded onto the stream for you to access on the morning of the learning. At this time, we are not able to provide print outs for all lessons as this would be unmanageable for large numbers of pupils on top of the other systems in place. However, as with all systems, we are flexible and we will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum delivery and make amendments as necessary. Please bear with us as there may be a few difficulties initially.

For your information, please be reminded of the steps to follow to access live teach:

Next time you join your classroom, follow these steps in order to join live schooling-

- Sign in to Google Classroom using the new login and password provided in October (you will have set your own personal password at this time)
- Click on the + in the top right hand corner to join the class. Enter the code for your class that was provided earlier in the term;
- Once you have joined the class you will be taken to the stream. Underneath the name of the class there will be a meet link;
- Click on the meet link at the time your teacher has stated the lesson will start. For example, click on 9am for maths;
- Click on join to enter the conversation;
- Your computer may ask you to allow access to your microphone and camera so that you can be seen and heard during the lesson. Please click allow;
- When joining future lessons you will just need to click on the meet link on the stream page at the appropriate time. This will then give you the option to join the conversation;
- You will be able to use the chat facility to ask questions, as well as speak to the teachers directly;
- If you have lost your login / password, please contact your child's class teacher and they will issue a new one as soon as they possibly can.

Books for the children to use for home learning have already been sent home so children will need to complete their work in them.

The staff in school have asked me to reinforce messages around behaviour expectations when accessing the live teaching from home. Children will need to behave in the way that they would normally in school and only put comments into the chat when asked to by the teachers. Also, any comments written in the chat must be kept subject and lesson specific at all times. Please can I ask that you reinforce this message with your child prior to accessing the live teaching each day.

The DfE have provided our school with only 3 additional laptops to support online provision. If you have no other options in terms of devices to use, please contact me on the email address below to see if you would be eligible for one of these laptops. However, at the moment due to the small number of these, there would be no guarantees unfortunately. If we receive further devices we may be in a better position to loan these to families to support online learning. I will keep you updated as we receive further details.

Thank you once again for all your support. I know that by working together we will get through the next few weeks. As always, please do not hesitate to contact school should you have any worries or concerns.

*"You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. " – Job 11:18-19*

Yours faithfully,

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