



# St Michael's CE Junior School

## Message from Mrs Tyler

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. This week has seen the start of a new term in lockdown and it is a very strange concept for us all. Since the announcement back in March that schools were to close, it feels like we have been working on three phases, the two weeks until Easter, then the Easter holiday period where we were of course still open for specific children, and then this next phase – which is of course of an unknown period of time. During all of these phases we have remained open for specified children but have also tried to maintain our “Virtual School”.

Conversations this week with staff and parents have reflected the need for our school values of respect, courage and resilience by us all in these times. These are, as we know, unprecedented times and we are all feeling our way in difficult circumstances. Not only are we all working in a way that is different to what we have been used to but we are dealing with the invisible enemy that is Covid -19, and many of us are dealing with personal stories relating to Coronavirus as well as dealing with whatever “normal” life brings us. It is no surprise that we find it hard on some days to stay positive. However, we seem to forget that it is quite normal for us to have days that go well and days that don't – and we do get through them. The difficulty for many of us is the lack of personal connection currently – a quick smile, a hug or word of reassurance from someone can often make all the difference to our day. We are needing to readjust without these at times.

The point I am trying to make is to ask you all to be kind to yourselves (as well as to each other) during this time. Some parents have contacted us to ask if they are doing too much learning – others have said they find it hard to fit in any, whilst some say they find it hard to get the balance right on some days. All of these things are normal. Please remember that the National Curriculum is currently suspended. You are not expected to be teachers fulfilling National Curriculum

requirements. The children will be learning so many things at home that are not always valued and which don't fit into an obvious “box”.

Many of you will have children at different schools and there will be different approaches by each – just as there are when schools run in the way they have for years. This will be dependent on the way the curriculum vision looks within the school, the cohorts of children within and the general values that are embedded in the school, just to name a few variables! It doesn't mean one is right and one is wrong – they are just different. Each school will have its reasons for doing things the way they do – and we hope that here at St Michael's we communicate clearly – if not, please tell us (but nicely!). We are all finding our way and doing our best – our community support for each other is amazing and that is what will see us through this current time and onto sunnier times – at the end of those wonderful rainbows.

In short, we are thinking of you all and we are here if you need to contact us or ask questions. We will do our best to help and support. Be kind to yourselves and each other but above all, stay home and stay safe.

*Inspired by Him, we serve the community of St Michael's by creating an inclusive learning culture where all differences are respected, where courage is shown to face and overcome adversity, and resilience is embedded in our journey to success so we can be the very best we can be.*

**Respect – Courage – Resilience**