



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We're contacting you to update you on changes we are bringing in, following the government briefing yesterday, 16th March 2020.

You will have seen the instruction that if any member of a household has either of the two key symptoms of the coronavirus COVID-19 (a high temperature or a new persistent cough), everyone who lives in that house must self-isolate for 14 days. If this applies to you, please email the school so that we can record your child's absence accordingly.

With the protection of the most vulnerable in our society in mind, all pupils and staff who are considered a member of a vulnerable group (please see government guidelines for a clear definition) should remain at home as per the guidance released today. If this applies to your child, please email the school so that we can record the absence appropriately.

Although the official guidance is that a well child should attend school as normal, if another member of your household belongs to one of these vulnerable groups, we will support you if you opt to keep your child safe at home - and will authorise the absence. If this applies to you, please let us know. Children who are not presenting with any symptoms and whose family members are not in one of the vulnerable categories should be in school.

We will be communicating with parents of any children off school with regard to work that will be sent to them. We are mindful that staff are also currently delivering a full curriculum to the children who are currently in school. We do, of course, have to be prepared for the potential long-term closure of the school and are organising our remote learning model to maintain your children's learning, whilst taking into consideration the physical and mental wellbeing of staff who are also parents, sons and daughters themselves. This afternoon, the staff training will be focussed on the potential future delivery of remote learning, including both hardware and software preparation. Information about how to use the remote learning system will be sent to all families.

On the recommendation that large gatherings should be avoided, we have, reluctantly, cancelled the Year 6 Parents' Evening which was due to take place on Thursday evening and the Pre-Prep Parents' Evenings tonight and on Thursday. Please be assured that if there is important feedback we need to give you, you will be contacted by phone or email. Equally, if you have any concerns or timely questions that you were planning to discuss, please contact the teacher directly via email.

We continue to take measures to aid the health and wellbeing of all children and staff at St Michael's. The set up in the Prep school dining room will be changed, by separating the tables and creating more space both on individual tables and around them. Our cleaning team are continuing to focus on the high traffic areas of school and are ensuring the handles, rails and desktops are cleaned regularly. The children are constantly reminded about the necessity for effective handwashing and this is something we ask you reinforce at home.



We have also contacted our local partner schools, who use our facilities during the school day and advised them we will be suspending their visits for the foreseeable future.

As you will know, at this time schools have been told to stay open, but as the Prime Minister stated, this is under constant review and we will update you should our status change.

As always thank you for your support and understanding.

Fraser Wiseman, Mary Bridges and Zerrin Leech