

# St. Michael's Church of England, VA, Primary and Nursery School

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## Dream, Believe, Achieve

We are a school, rooted and inspired by Christian values, which nurtures children to achieve infinitely more than we might ask or they may dream; empowering them so they can flourish as confident citizens now and in the future.

– Ephesians 3:20 "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."



3rd January 2021

## EMERGENCY INSET DAY – 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware of very recent communications from the government about the re-opening of primary schools at the start of term on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

The safety of everyone is paramount.

We have done absolutely everything we can to make our school as safe as possible, but both the new strain of COVID 19 and the steep rise in infection rates locally and nationally, are very worrying for everyone.

The Governments guidance for schools changes quickly, often with little notice to anyone and therefore this remains a changing situation for all.

The biggest teaching and support staff unions have written to their members advising them that they should not return to work on Monday, as the workplace is unsafe, quoting section 44 of the Health and Safety Act.

**Due to this continuing situation, and following communication from staff members, we will not have adequate staff levels to fully re-open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Therefore, our Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body, with the full backing of Norfolk County Council, have decided to close fully on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January for an emergency INSET day. This will allow school leaders to assess the situation and put plans in place for a safe re-opening of school as soon as practically possible. This means the school will remain closed for all pupils on this date.**

We appreciate that lack of clarity for the future is deeply unhelpful and that closure on Monday may create difficulties for you. However, we can neither open nor operate with unsafe staffing levels and given how quickly the situation is moving, we cannot prepare in time for Monday.

**Please also be aware that the school will be closed for face-to-face learning to all children except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers for at least 2 weeks. This will be reviewed before the Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. We will be providing online remote learning for all other children from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January onwards.**

The criteria for a critical worker is detailed below along with a definition of vulnerable children. You will be sent a link to an online survey later this afternoon so you can let us know if your child falls into the 'critical worker category' and you are unable to leave your child at home with a responsible adult. We would appreciate it if you can complete the survey as soon as possible so we can assess how many children will be coming into school from the 5<sup>th</sup> January.

### Vulnerable Children

Vulnerable children are defined as those with an EHCP and all children with an allocated social worker such as looked after children, or children subject to child protection and family support arrangements fall into this category. These children are able to access the emergency provision in school if they cannot be cared for at home. We will also take



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into consideration those children with Special Educational Needs and those who are considered to be Pupil Premium.

We will contact these families to see if they need this optional emergency provision.

## **Critical Workers**

### Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

### Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

### Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

### Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

### Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

### Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

### Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.



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Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience and concern this may cause.

We continue to be committed to giving your children the best education possible so that they can achieve their goals through dealing **wisely** with difficulty; **creatively** with challenge and with **resilience** through adversity. Through **nurture, learning** and **hard work** anything is possible.

Kindest regards and best wishes,

Mr John Neenan (Headteacher & SENDCo) Mrs Julie Phillips (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Fiona Tibbitt (Business Manager and Clerk to Governors)

