



Today marks 17 very long weeks since our school closed to the large majority of pupils and by the following Monday, as a country we had gone into lockdown. For those pupils who have not attended school during all this time, they have now been at home with you for the equivalent of almost 3 summer holidays! We cannot wait until September when we can at last welcome everyone back. We recognise that we will need to make

some changes to the way school normally operates but what we promise you, our families, is that we will care for and protect your children as best we can. **Please, please make sure you have read all the very important letters that we have sent out this week and that you keep an eye on the Covid-19 website page over the summer as we will upload any updates onto here.**



**You are amazing**

simply for hanging in there  
and holding on, no matter  
how hard things get!  
And for moving forward no  
matter how scared you are  
or how anxious you feel.  
*Yep, you are impressively awesome.*

Karen Salmansohn

To you as parents we want to say the most **ENORMOUS THANK YOU!** You have been incredible during this strange and challenging time for our whole school community. Your kindness, concern, messages, gifts, phone calls and support have kept us all as a staff going and we are very grateful to you. The number of parents who have contacted teachers to say they 'don't know how teachers do their job' as you have tried to home school your child has made us smile. There are many times for us as teachers when we feel like pulling our hair out (like many of you probably did at some point over the last 17 weeks) and we don't always get everything right but I truly believe that being a teacher is the best job ever and we are the lucky ones! Over the last 17 weeks, you have embraced your roles as co-teachers in

addition to protecting, nourishing, supporting and entertaining your children during a time of such uncertainty, fear and national crisis. I am sure that many of you have had up and down moments and "easier" and hard days but you have not given up and we are so, so proud of all those families who have persevered (no matter how hard) with the home learning. Your children will be the better for it and we cannot thank you enough. Now though is a time for some rest and relaxation. Enjoy your summer and family time so that when the children return in September they are refreshed, full of energy and ready for all the learning that will take place!



**THANK  
YOU ALL**  
You're the  
**BEST TEAM  
EVER**

I know that you will also join me in saying a very big thank you to all the staff who work at St Michael's. Before the last few months happened, I always knew that I was so lucky to be the Headteacher of this school and to work with such a wonderful group of people who are so dedicated and committed to our school community. When we were asked to close our doors on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, the staff immediately went into autopilot. They ensured this abrupt end to the school year was carried out calmly with your children so as not to cause alarm or distress. By the Monday morning they were all immediately engaged in home learning and SEESAW became the 'new way' and the teachers moved

their classrooms into your homes! They (with you) delivered activities that were educational and interesting. When parents needed help or support, they offered this, either through a message, a phone call or a home visit. When some parents struggled with the technology, the teachers did not give up and offered home learning packs and the TAs were amazing and delivered them. This was all to make sure no child was disadvantaged. The staff did this whilst also working in school with key worker and vulnerable children and in more recent weeks with specific year groups. They have given up their holidays and bank holidays and never once complained. They have been amazing throughout this period and have kept me going with their resilience, positivity, generosity and good humour! Every one of them... ..teachers, TAs, Mr Henry, the cleaners, the office staff, the kitchen staff without exception have pulled together for the greater good of everyone. They have ensured that all of our children can continue to learn, that our school is a safe place to teach, that parents have been supported and our vulnerable children have been protected. I could not be any prouder of them, nor more honoured to lead them. I will never, ever forget this period of time and one of my overwhelming memories will be of how as a school community we have worked together... .. what we have truly learnt is that TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!

**Don't forget over the summer holiday about our '100 Challenge' - 100 Things to achieve before you leave St Michael's.** How many things can you tick off the list? When we come back it would be lovely to give out lots of certificates to children who have ticked a number of things off. Share your photos with us – we would love to see them!!!!

CHALLENGE  
**100**

Class of 2020

Primary School

Leaver

The year when you  
were quarantined!

You are amazing.  
You are unforgettable.  
You are unstoppable.

## Goodbye Year 6... We will miss you!

And now is the time for us to celebrate our WONDERFUL Year 6! It has been a far from normal send off to this wonderful group of children. Normally we would by now have celebrated their SAT results, watched them bask in the glory of the summer production, had a beautiful Leavers Mass and a party to celebrate....but this year our celebrations have

been a little different! Mrs Roberts and Mrs Salusbury still did you proud and made sure your last morning with us was a special time. I loved seeing all the children! This class hold a very special place in my heart. They were the first Reception class to go right through the school with me as Headteacher at St Michael's and so together we have lived out our St Michael's journey. Each child is unique, special and talented. They are all capable of achieving wonderful things and I really do hope they keep in touch and come back and visit us. We are so proud of everything the children have achieved at St Michael's and what we have learnt throughout the last few months is how resilient these children are. No matter what obstacles are put in their pathway, they will find a way to overcome them and remain positive. We hope that as



and just like that,  
you know it's time to  
start something new  
and trust the magic  
of beginnings.

they move onto their new High School's they continue to 'shine' and show all their new teachers what wonderful human beings they are. We will be thinking of them in September and missing them lots but now is the time for them to spread their wings, show courage and bravery and move on to the new adventures that await them. Good luck to you all, I know you will be awesome.

Be bold enough to  
use your voice,  
brave enough to  
listen to your heart,  
and strong enough  
to live the life you've  
always imagined.

## GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK YEAR 6!



what feels like  
the End  
is often  
the Beginning ↗



We also have to say goodbye to the wonderful Miss Mackin. She will be missed so much by her colleagues and the children. Any child who has been taught by Miss Mackin has been so lucky to experience her magic teaching skills. Thank you for sharing your talents with us – our school is so much richer for having you in it. She is an incredible teacher and person and although we are so sad she is going, we are blessed to have had her in our school and wish her every happiness in the new adventures that await her. She has promised to come back and visit us soon!



At Easter in the middle of lockdown we also said goodbye to Mrs McGuinness who retired after many years of working at St Michael's. Mrs McGuinness was always happy and full of fun. Everyone loved her enthusiasm and her commitment to our children. She will also be sadly missed. We wish her a joyful, happy and healthy retirement and well deserved rest. We also hope she comes back and visits us!

**All that is left for me to say is enjoy your summer. Please stay safe and keep up to date with any updates via our website over the holiday.**

**Enjoy your well deserved break and we will see you ALL in September!**

**Mrs Ralph**