23/6/2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to St Michael’s CE Primary School Early Years.  We are delighted that you have chosen our school to support your child’s development in the first stages of their educational journey.  We have developed an Early Years Unit which now begins with children from age 2.  Our vision is: Achieving and Growing Together.  At St Michael’s we provide the good ground to support your child to grow and flourish.  Our skilled staff, vibrant environment and extensive grounds provide high quality learning opportunities to support child development in all areas.

We are currently experiencing a lot of uncertainty with the COVID-19 global pandemic.  Usually this term would be all about preparing you and your child to join our school with a seamless transition. This would involve home visits and visits to school.  We are following government guidance which means it would be very difficult to welcome you into school at this time.  However, we have put together a comprehensive pack of new starter information together for you.  This is being sent out by post, email and is available on our school website.  It should include most of the information you need but sadly does not replace a physical visit.  We will try to contact all of our families by telephone too, to ensure you have received everything and to give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Starting school can be an exciting and also possibly anxious time. The current situation adds to this. Please be assured that to open fully to all children we will be following all guidance, with clear risk assessments in place.  If anything changes we will let you know straight away.  We will be contacting you as soon as we can offer a start date for September.

Attached to this letter is a pack of documentation to support you joining our school:

1. Application for a place in Early Years - this is for all children new to our school. Please **return**  as soon as possible.
2. Registration pack - this is for all children new to our school. Please **return**  as soon as possible.
3. Parental Declaration for 2, 3 and 4 Year Old Funded Entitlement - this is for **all** children. Please **return**  as soon as possible.
4. St Michael’s Early Years Overview and welcome from Mrs Mackay - Early Years Lead
5. Nursery Extra Hours Contract - please complete if you are hoping to **pay** for extra hours (£12 per session)
6. Information for parents / carers on Free Early Education Entitlement - information from Northumberland County Council - information to read. *Please note application for free childcare places should be made as soon as possible via the website:* <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Family/Childcare/Early-years-education-%E2%80%93-free-entitlement.aspx>
7. Uniform Order form (for information purposes) - uniform to be ordered through Border Embroideries: <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/st-michael-s-primary-school-alnwick.html>
8. School holiday dates - for information

All of this information is Pack A. Once we receive the signed documents as outlined above, we will send out Pack B which includes many useful pieces of information linked to learning in Early Years.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Gavin Johnston - Head Teacher