



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School



Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 7LN · Tel: 01228 711544 · Headteacher: Mrs J Paisley

Our school values: Respect · Kindness · Challenge · Forgiveness · Perseverance

Dear Parents

12 January 2021

I hope everyone is well and staying safe. I am writing today with a more general newsletter to update you on a range of topics.

Accessing Home Learning

We are trying to look at as many ways as possible to help our pupils access online learning during this time. Information has been sent out about using an X Box or Playstation to access the internet and Seesaw, and also about the offer to provide extra data for mobile phones. If you need any further information about either of these please contact school. If your child does not have access to a device that they can use for Home Learning, please let school know by Friday 15 January. I cannot promise that we are able to provide a device but we will certainly do our best to help.

New Home Learning

As per last week's letter, we will now be uploading the new Home Learning on a Friday evening/Saturday morning. At this point the previous week's learning will be removed and it will no longer be readily available. I would encourage you to download anything you may need before Friday evening.

Free School Meals

Free School Meals are in two different categories:

- Universal Free School Meals which are generally provided to all infant school children. The government is not providing these during lockdown.
- Means tested Free School Meals. These are still being provided and I will be sending a letter out in the next day or so to let those families who are entitled to them know how we will manage this going forward.

The circumstances of many families will have changed recently and it may be that you are now entitled to claim for Free School Meals. If you feel this may be the case, please use the following link to find further information and also to apply. If you need to discuss this, please do not hesitate to contact school.

<https://cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>

Get Active Challenge

A letter was issued on 11 January introducing you to our 'Get Active Challenge'. Details of the challenge can also be found in the *Whole School* section of the *Home Learning* tab on our website. There are a range of other options for keeping active during lockdown such as the *Joe Wickes workouts* which are happening three times each week, sites such as *Yoga Bugs* and *Jump Start Jonny*. If you try anything else that you enjoy, please let us know and we can pass details on to others.

Whole School Home Learning

As well as individual class pages, we have a *Whole School Home Learning* page on the website. This is where you will find the 'Get Active Challenge', links to other useful websites, both for education and enjoyment (hopefully a combination of the two) and also a range of wellbeing resources and links. We have started a series of videos called 'Pause For Thought' which have a wellbeing and mindfulness focus. New videos will be added on a weekly basis and we will update links to sites as we discover them, so do keep checking.

Facebook

We have a school Facebook page which I know many of you already access. We have restarted our story time videos and these will be posted on Facebook several times a week. I also try to add information onto the page which I feel our parents may find useful. If you have not already discovered the page, I would urge you to have a look.

Critical Worker Provision

I will no longer be sending out booking forms to all families on a weekly basis. These will be sent out only to families who have been accessing the provision. However, if at any point you need to access this, please contact school and I will email a form straight out to you.

This provision is here for those children of Critical Workers who **need** a place. Here at St. Michael's we are absolutely committed to providing this for those children who **need** to be in school and have no other safe option. However, the Government advice on this is clear: if you have the option to have your children at home (eg. if one parent is working from home, or there is a responsible person at home able to look after them, even if they are working from home) then this is the safest place for them and others. The more children we have in school the higher the chances of us having a positive case. This would result in a bubble being closed down which may ultimately mean that the key workers who have been accessing the provision are not able to work, and provide vital services, as they will have children at home who need to isolate. I would ask that you consider very carefully whether your child does need a place.

As always please do get in touch if you have any queries. We are here to help and support you however we can.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Paisley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

Mrs J Paisley
Headteacher