



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School

Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 7LN • Tel: 01228 711544 • Headteacher: Mrs L Smith

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

Tuesday 10th October 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy and positive start to the school year. With just two weeks left until half term, I write with some information about upcoming school events.

Harvest

On Friday 13th October we will be celebrating Harvest at St Michael's church. The service will be led by Ben and all classes will be involved in singing, reciting poems or reading from the Bible. Any donations for our service can be dropped off at school this week – there is a box in our school hall. These donations will support Carlisle Foodbank. Fresh fruit and vegetables are welcome, though dried or tinned foods are preferable as they last longer. Unfortunately, due to all pupils taking part in the service, regrettably there is not the physical space to open it up to the wider community.

Parents' Evening

We look forward to welcoming you into school to share your child's progress. If you do not have an appointment and cannot book using School Cloud please call the school office to arrange a time.

Book Fair

Next week we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in our school hall from 3.30-4pm every night and again for an extended period on parents' evenings. There will be an option to pay online using your credit/debit card with a QR code issued in school. School will be offered free books based on our total sales.

Cycling to School

It is great to see so many children cycling to and from school. In order to ensure that our pupils are safe, I would recommend that cycle helmets are worn. It has also been brought to my attention that some of our pupils are not being safe and/or considerate of road users. Riding on the pavement can be difficult for other users, especially those with prams and young children. Please ensure your child/children are riding responsibly and safely. When dropping off and collecting their bikes, our pupils should walk with their bike in the playground for the safety and consideration of all playground users – thank you.

Open Morning

Today we opened our doors to prospective parents of Reception new starters next September. Many Year 6 pupils conducted school tours and enjoyed sharing our range of learning with our visitors. They were a real credit to our school community – well done and thank you!

Year 6 Bright Stars

This term, our Year 6 pupils are taking part in a social business enterprise with Paragon Vets. Our pupils will receive £50 as a class and work with employees from Paragon Vets to generate their own mini business. Exciting times ahead – our pupils are already being very creative with their ideas. Watch this space!



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Reading VIPs

This term, I will be meeting with two pupils from each class each week to share their reading. I will talk to them about what books they are reading and have enjoyed. As English coordinator within school I want to hear our pupils' voice and ensure our library stock is exciting and enthuses our young readers.

DEAR – 'Drop Everything And Read'

This week in school we are launching our whole school story sack – kindly made by Mrs Carruthers. Each week, it will be filled with a new exciting story or poem which will be shared in all classes. When the story sack comes into each class – pupils and adults will drop everything to read! At St Michael's we prioritise loving reading and enjoying stories. The stories/poems shared will be added to our reading tree in the school entrance with pupils' comments and reviews.

National Poetry Day

We had a great day in school sharing, reading and reciting poems on Thursday 5th October. The day started with a shared assembly whereby all staff members read their most treasured poem. The most popular seemed to be the one chosen by Miss Jonsson from our office. She read 'One Fine Day In The Middle Of The Night'. The poet is anonymous but it was enjoyed by all and inspired our pupils to read and enjoy lots of nonsense poems. On Thursday our junior reading buddies wrote poems and made corner book marks for their younger partners. Everyone enjoyed this special day!

School Council

This week all classes will be voting for their class school council members. I hope as many pupils as possible put themselves forward to be part of our school council.

Mental Health Awareness Day

Today within school we shared an assembly around the need to talk about what's on your mind. The focus on Ant and Dec's assembly launch is on 'get talking and get listening'. All pupils will be bringing home a homework sheet with the focus on 'Britain Get Talking.' As always, if we can support you with anything, please do get in touch with myself via the school office.

Forest School Training

This term Mrs McArde and Miss Rowe will be taking part in Forest School training – an accredited professional development course. We want to make the most of our school outdoor space and maximise learning in the outdoors as much as possible. We hope all of our pupils will benefit from this external training in due course.

Thank you for your continued support. St Michael's is a really happy, positive environment with so much engaging, purposeful, individual and continuous learning going on. Our staff team are working hard to deliver an EPIC curriculum for our pupils, in line with our school vision. As always, if you have any queries, please do get in touch.

Kind Regards

Lorna Smith
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