



# 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*



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I think we are all ready to see some sunshine and welcome the arrival of Spring! School life continues to be busy, engaging and exciting – which is great. I write with a few updates.

## Library Visits

Our Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 pupils visited Carlisle library last week as part of our World Book Day celebrations. The children were excited to choose a book and are enjoying reading/sharing them. If your child has borrowed a book, please can you ensure it is returned to the library. Alternatively, books can be handed into the office before the end of term and school staff will ensure their safe return. Year 5 and 6 pupils will visit the library when the trains resume.

## World Book Day

Thank you to the HUGE effort made by our families in designing, making and creating some fantastic costumes to represent some of our children's favourite book characters. The sharing assembly had a real buzz of excitement and each class were applauded for their costumes and enjoyed a lap around the hall to really get into role. Staff members shared their favourite extracts from books and prayers were said for those children around the world in under developed countries with no or limited access in learning to read.

## RWI Phonics Development Day

This half term we have had 'in house' monitoring and training from a national expert on our teaching of early reading. The trainer was delighted with our provision with school and was particularly pleased to see how our half termly pupil assessments inform our teaching and continue to challenge our pupils so that they can succeed. A great team effort and well done to our pupils who showed their love of learning, and great respect and manners on the day!

## Pupil Voice/Feedback

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February several pupils from our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 classes were chosen to meet with an experienced headteacher to share their thoughts and experiences of 'What life is like to be a pupil in St Michael's school'. It was a real pleasure to read the findings. Our pupils were a real credit to our school and absolute ambassadors for our school values and really demonstrated St Michael's standards for behaviour and learning - a huge well done!

## Science Week Investigations

There have never been so many biscuits in our staff meeting than at the start of this week. Miss Mawson had planned and prepared a whole school science investigation to test which biscuits could be dunked the most/longest. There were variables including water temperature and biscuit consistency. Our pupils have had a great time experimenting and are now collating their results to share in a school display.

## World Poetry Day

To celebrate World Poetry Day we would like to invite our parents and children to the Reading Café on Thursday morning at 8am. Please join us for a cuppa and a slice of toast to share some good poems or even a story – all are very welcome! Within school we will be having a special sharing assembly and all pupils will receive a poetry scroll to take home to read and even learn to recite.



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## U Dance

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March Miss Butcher and Mrs Atkinson will be accompanying our school dance club to The Crown & Mitre to perform 'Cool Kids' to a wide audience. We are incredibly proud of our dancers and a huge thank you to Miss Butcher and Mrs Atkinson for running this after school club. The dance costumes look amazing and have been carefully made by Mrs Dalton – thank you.

## Parents' Meetings

It was a real pleasure to meet and chat with so many of our parents and families this week over both parents' evenings. There was a real buzz of positivity and energy about the pupils' learning and shared home/school recognition and praise for the great progress and many achievements of our pupils. Thank you to the many parents who have taken the time to complete the survey and we will collate the results and share with the whole school community before the end of term. If you have misplaced or need a QR code, these are available at the school office.

## HSA Easter Disco

Tickets are on sale until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March for the HSA infant and junior discos from both the office and on School Cloud. These are being held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March and I know our pupils are very much looking forward to them.

## Easter Celebrations/St Michael's Church Service

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March we will be sharing some Easter activities in our school house teams. If possible, please could all pupils bring a hard boiled egg into school on that day for the egg design and making activity. In the afternoon Ben will be leading a service in St Michael's church to celebrate Easter with the whole school. Each class will be presenting a short poem, song or Bible reading. Unfortunately, due to space we cannot extend this invitation to our parents and family members.

## Feet First

Next week we are encouraging our pupils to walk, pedal or scooter to school as part of the national 'Feet First' event. Please ensure you and your children continue to cross safely with Steve.

## End of Term

School will close at the normal time on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March and After School Club will finish at the earlier time of 4.30pm.

We have an exciting couple of weeks planned for our pupils in the run up to the end of term. If I can help you in any way or you want to talk anything through with me, please don't hesitate to contact our school office and our admin staff will arrange a time for us to meet.

Thank you for the support, positivity and kindness which is extended to myself and the staff team by so many of our families on a regular basis. It is very much appreciated.

Kind Regards

Mrs Lorna Smith