



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*

18 October 2022

Dear Parents,

Harvest Donations

Firstly, a huge thank you for the kind donations for our Harvest Festival. Collectively a tremendous amount of produce was able to be donated to the Carlisle foodbank and Women's refuge – two causes very much supported by St Michael's church.

Our Harvest Festival was celebrated through songs, poems and Bible readings and was enjoyed by all of our pupils, especially our Reception children.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you for booking appointments to meet with your child's class teacher. We are looking forward to meeting with you to share your child's progress and details of how they have settled into their new class. At the meeting, you will be asked to sign our 'Online Acceptable Use Agreement' – a copy is attached to this email for you to read.

This year we will be sharing some of our pupils' work across the curriculum in the hall. We will have examples of some of the work produced throughout school for you to look at.

May we ask that parents of Reception and Year 2 pupils wait in the shared cloak space, Year 3 parents wait outside their class space and that parents of Year 1, 4, 5 and 6 wait in the hall. We are able to offer supervision of pupils in the hall during appointments, where necessary.

Curriculum Enhancement Offer

As part of ensuring we provide the best learning opportunities for our pupils, we would like to hear 'your voice' and ideas. Over this half term we have discussed as a staff team and asked our pupils about extended opportunities they would like to experience whilst being a pupil at St Michael's. Some of the ideas have included cook a meal from scratch, fly a kite, paddle in the sea, watch an orchestra perform. Whilst you are in school for parents evening, please could you complete a short survey to help us gather information about the types of enhanced learning experiences you would like to see built into our curriculum for our pupils – this can be found in the hall.

As a leadership team, we will then collate all the responses from our pupils, parents and the staff, to share with our governors and agree the enhanced curriculum opportunities to be offered. We want the best learning opportunities for our pupils to make our curriculum offer EPIC;- Engaging, Purposeful, Individual and Continuous.

Football Success

Well done to our boys and girls football teams who represented St Michael's in the local inter school competitions at Harraby 3G. Our pupils were role models and played really well. All pupils participating showed great awareness of our school values and were a credit to the school. Well done! Thank you also to Mr Dickinson and Mrs Oliphant for their support in these events.



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School Council

Each class has voted for their School Council representatives. The first question they brought to our meetings was to ask their peers if we should reinstate Headteacher Award and certificates at our celebration assembly. This then led to what should the benefits be that coincide with this award? Pupils are in the process of voting and the main idea coming back from pupil voice is that the following Monday those receiving a Headteacher Award should be able to sit at a top table in the dinner hall. Other suggestions are that pupils could also bring a friend and have the choice of sugar free dilute juice and be first in to eat. It's great to hear the pupils' ideas and help them make decisions and to put their suggestions into action.

Read, Write Inc Books

This half term we have shared a training day in school with Sarah Jones, a National trainer in the above phonics programme. She worked with many teachers and support staff and is really pleased with the rigour and consistency in our phonics lessons. Unfortunately, we have had to order further copies of some Read at Home books to ensure our reading sets are full and that all pupils can access the correct texts at home. These books cost approximately £2.00 each. Please can you ensure that all books borrowed from school are returned as it is not viable to keep replacing books that are lost. Thank you for your cooperation and support in looking after our reading books.

Be Safe, Stay Safe

Tomorrow our local police officer will deliver an assembly to our pupils around staying safe throughout Halloween and Bonfire Night. He will discuss stranger awareness and fire safety including the use of sparklers. It is something the local police force are offering to all primary schools as in previous years many pupils have not participated in any of the above due to Covid restrictions.

Finally, as we move towards our half term holiday, may I wish you all an enjoyable break and hope that you can share some special family time with your child/ren.

As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have, at the start/end of the day. Alternatively, please contact the school office to arrange a time to meet with myself.

Kind Regards

Lorna Smith