



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

23 October 2020

Dear Parents

I can hardly believe we are on the last day of this half term. At the start of the school year this point seemed an incredibly long way off in terms of both time and hurdles to overcome. But we are here! It has been “interesting”, eventful and, at times, challenging but, I hope you will agree, overwhelmingly a success! Thank you to each and every one of you for your immense support as we navigated our way through these strange times. Thank you also to your children who have been amazing. They have adapted quickly, brought life back into St. Michael's, amazed us with their determination and resilience and constantly lifted our spirits.

Before we break up for Half Term there were a few things I wanted to bring to your attention.

The Poppy Appeal

Once again, we are supporting the Poppy Appeal this year. We will need to do things a little differently to ensure we are COVID safe. There will be a small stock of merchandise for sale in each classroom in the week beginning 2 November. Children are invited to purchase these at break time. Please note this is entirely optional. Suggested donations are as follows:

- Poppies – 50p
- Wristbands - £1
- Snap bands - £1
- Reflectors - £1
- Zip Pulls - £1

Children in Need

On Thursday 12 November we will be taking part in the BBC's Children In Need campaign. This year's campaign is focussed on raising awareness of and raising funds to support children's mental wellbeing. The children will take part in various activities throughout the day. They are also invited to attend school in non-uniform (bright colours if possible) for a suggested donation of £1 which will go towards the BBC appeal. We will send out a reminder closer to the date.

Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to claim for Free School Meals I would encourage you to do so. It is a simple process and further information can be found on the Cumbria County Council website.

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

I have also added a link to our Facebook Page.

All of our Infant children already receive free lunches through the Universal Free School Meals scheme (UFSM). However, this is a separate stream and you may still be entitled to apply for Free School Meals linked to income, even though your child already receives the UFSM. If you think you may meet the criteria please do apply. This of course will not benefit you personally from a financial point of view however, it does trigger a small amount of extra funding



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into school which can be used to support the children's learning. If you would like to discuss this further please do get in touch.

School Dinners

Please make sure you order your child's dinners using Lunchshop. This is the parent's responsibility and having to locate and complete missing orders takes a large amount of time for the office staff and means that your child may not always get their first choice of meal.

If you would like to switch from school dinners to packed lunch or vice versa please contact the office as soon as possible so that we can make the necessary changes to our system. We ask that these changes start on a Monday; please do not switch mid-week.

Uniform orders

I am aware that some of you are awaiting PE kit orders and I apologise for the delay. Our local supplier has had some issues with delays from their suppliers and unfortunately this has had a knock-on effect with items coming in to school. We will contact you as soon as stock arrives.

No clubs

Once again, we will not be able to run after school activities clubs next half term. We are constantly reviewing the situation and as soon as it is possible to reintroduce these we will do so.

Harvest

Thank you to all who contributed to our Harvest Collection. We were able to donate a wonderful amount of produce to the local Food Bank.

HSA

We are very fortunate to have a very dedicated and hard-working team of parents and friends of the school who run our Home and School Association (HSA). The team support the school through fundraising events which enable us to purchase "extras" that we may not otherwise be able to afford. Extras such as the 100 squares on the playgrounds, a fantastic selection of new books for our library and covering the cost of transportation for our visit to the theatre last year. They are always looking for new members to join them. However much time, ideas or skills you are able to offer they would be very interested in hearing from you. You can contact them on homeschoolchair@gmail.com

Tea Towels

The HSA still have a stock of St. Michael's tea towels available to purchase at £5 for 1, £9 for 2 or £12 for 3. If you did not get a chance earlier in the year and would like to make a purchase please send your order and payment into the school office in a sealed envelope. They would make great stocking fillers!



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Virtual Christmas Fair

Our HSA has also organised a Virtual Christmas Fair to raise funds for school. It is a great way to support some small local businesses. I am enclosing two posters with this newsletter which contain details of how to explore the Christmas Fair and also what to do if you are interested in having a "stall".

Have a wonderful and restful half term and we look forward to seeing you all on 2 November.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Paisley
Headteacher