



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

26 April 2021

Dear Parents

Let me start by thanking you all for your support in getting your children back to school safely. The start to the Summer term has gone well and it is lovely to be back with the children once again.

Many of the restrictions that were in place before Easter remain, however, we have started to make some tentative steps towards a kind of normality and, so far, these have gone well.

- we have re-introduced face to face guitar lessons for some of our Key Stage Two children;
- we have been able to reintroduce a football after school club (currently for Years 3 and 5 with Year 4 and 6 after half term);
- we have signed up for some sport competitions later in the term;
- we are also planning for our Year 6 residential to go ahead.

This is all quite small scale at the moment, however, we are hoping that once we see how these steps go we will be able to reintroduce more and to a wider range of children. We will keep you posted!

Tik Tok

Many of our children access Tik Tok on a regular basis. This app allows users to post and share videos. It has an age restriction of 13 - but we know that it is used by a lot of our pupils. There are many videos on Tik Tok which can be funny and appealing for children; however, much of the content is quite mature, can be sexual in content and includes offensive language and adult themes. I have been made aware that some of our children are accessing this type of content and are discussing it and making reference to it in school.

We have spoken to the older children today about their use of Tik Tok and accessing inappropriate content. Please can I ask that you back this message up at home and carefully monitor what your children are viewing.

OFSTED

As many of you will be aware we were inspected remotely in March. This inspection was not part of the normal OFSTED cycle and focussed heavily on how the school had provided education during lockdown. As it was not part of the normal cycle it does alter any grading that we previously received, despite the fact that all areas of the inspection were incredibly positive. A link to a copy of the report can be found on our website and it will also go live on the OFSTED site on 29 April. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded to the Parent View questionnaire.

Non-uniform Day

A very important part of life here at St. Michael's is looking at and thinking about how we can have a positive effect on our community. We have avoided doing too much in the way of charity fundraising in the past year as we are very aware of the extra financial burden that the pandemic has placed on many of our families.

We have, however, decided to take part in the Cash for Kids day planned for May and will be running a non-uniform day to raise funds for this local charity which is very dear to us at St. Michael's. On Thursday 13 May (the day before the official day) the children are invited to come to school wearing whatever they like in return for a voluntary contribution of £1 or more. We will also be talking during that week about the work that Cash for Kids does in our area. A reminder text will be sent out.

School Lunches

Please ensure you have ordered your child's dinner. If a dinner is not ordered the office have to place an order on your behalf and are unable to check with the children what they would like. This can result in children receiving a lunch that they may not like. Can I also remind you that if your child is absent it is your responsibility to cancel their lunch. The office staff are not able to do this on your behalf and if it is not cancelled you may still be charged.

Warmer Weather

Fingers crossed that we see more of the lovely weather that we experienced over the weekend. Please ensure that your child comes appropriately dressed for whatever the weather throws at us. If it is sunny a sun hat and water bottle (which must only contain water) are essential. Children may also bring sun-cream if needed, however they must be able to apply this themselves – school staff are not allowed to do this for them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Paisley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Paisley
Headteacher