



# St. Michael's Church of England Primary School

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

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

2 November 2021

Dear Parents

I hope you have had an enjoyable half term. Our children have returned to school looking really smart and ready to learn.

## *School Uniform*

Please may I remind you that our hooded tops are part of our PE/sports kit and not day- to-day uniform. We ask that children wear a blue cardigan or jumper over their shirt and tie. School hooded tops can be worn at breaktimes. Thank you also for your support in ensuring your child is wearing suitable, smart black footwear. It really makes a difference to our whole school behaviour and conduct when our pupils are smartly dressed and proud to be part of St Michael's school family.

## *Breakfast and After School Club*

Our Breakfast club and After School Club booking system, using Lunchshop, will go live on Friday at 3pm to take bookings for the week beginning Monday 8 November. You will be able to book a place for your child up until 10pm the night before. You can access Lunchshop using the same user name and password that you use to book a school dinner for your child. If you need a reset, please call or email our school office. Please note our Breakfast Club opens at 8am and pupils should not be dropped off before this time – thank you.

If you access childcare vouchers please can you email me details of the voucher system you use and details of the voucher amount you have applied for. (lsmith@st-michaels.cumbria.sch.uk) I can then contact these providers to register and redeem the funds. When we have confirmation of your childcare voucher application, we will be able to add those funds to your Lunchshop account to enable you to book a place in our wrap-around care.

We are very excited with the new, fresh environment for our pupils and are pleased that the children are enjoying the healthy snacks offered. The wrap around team are going to discuss with our pupils possible themes for each night – including board games, baking, shelter building, to name but a few. We will send details of planned activities for the sessions up until Christmas in due course.

## *HSA (Home School Association)*

At St Michael's we have a team of volunteers led by Rachel Richards and ably supported by our vice-chair Lyndsey Dalton who have coordinated our Home School Association for many years. They have been invaluable in organising events within school to help raise money so that our pupils can benefit. The events they have organised are designed with fun in mind and the involvement of our children and the wider community and have included cake sales, a junior disco, a Christmas shopping event, whole school tea towel, raffles and a Summer Fair. From the money raised our children have benefited greatly from resources such as playground 100 square markings, the renewal of the school team sports kit and equipment to name but a few. They are currently funding an area to be set up to accommodate outdoor learning/forest school activities. Many of these additional extras that enhance our pupils' experiences at St Michael's would not be possible without their assistance because of continued cut backs to school budgets, and so we are extremely grateful.

The HSA needs the support and engagement of more parents to remain viable. Can you spare a few hours to help organise events, sell raffle tickets or support at future events? The next meeting of the HSA will be on Thursday 4

November at 7.30pm in school. We need your help to keep this organisation running. All parents, grandparents and extended family members are welcome to attend to support this valuable aspect of our school community. I hope as many parents as possible will consider attending and hope to see you there.

### *School Crossing and Parking*

Thank you to all parents who continue to park responsibly for the safety of all of our pupils. Please avoid parking on the pavements or so close to private driveways that it becomes dangerous for local residents to exit or enter their properties. The pavements also need to be left clear so that all pupils and parents walking to school with pushchairs can do so safely. Steve, our crossing patrol, is there to keep all of our school community safe and we request that children are not encouraged to cross independently, but walk along to Steve. Crossing on the bend, to enter the school via the field gate on the infant yard, is dangerous and I hope you will support me in making sure your child crosses with Steve.

### *School Photographs*

We have booked for Tempest photography to come into school on Tuesday 9 November. There will be time before the school day for pupils to have their photograph taken with younger or older siblings from 8.30am. Please can I ask all parents taking up this offer to remain socially distanced and wear a face mask whilst in the school building.

As always, if you have any queries, please get in touch and I will do my best to help.

Kind regards



Mrs L Smith  
Headteacher