



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

4th January 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable break over Christmas. We look forward to welcoming our children back to school tomorrow.

Covid and Omicron

Our priority within school is to keep teaching our children face to face. We need your help with this to limit the spread of the virus, the new variant and, in turn, keep staff absence limited so that all classes can operate. If your child has cold-like symptoms – runny nose, sneezing, scratchy throat or a high temperature or the classic Covid symptoms of loss of taste/smell or a continuous cough they should not attend school. As a school we will work with you and your child to provide home learning tasks on our website and on Seesaw so that they can continue to learn, whilst keeping everyone safe. If your child has the above symptoms, we may ask that they take a PCR test before returning to our setting.

Exciting times Ahead...

This term we have booked some virtual visits, trips and arranged for external specialists to come into school to enhance the curriculum we provide for our children. We hope that our pupils will enjoy these experiences and in some cases I will write to individual classes to give more information. Two opportunities I want to share are:

Chinese Ribbon Dancing

Four classes within school will take part in this workshop on 31st January as part of their learning around Chinese New Year and Chinese Art. We hope this will be fun and enjoyable and give our pupils a chance to be creative and expressive.

Climate

All pupils will watch this theatre production, which visits our school on Tuesday 8th February. The production highlights the need for proactive climate change. It shares the need for everyone to be responsible in their daily lives in saving our planet. It will hopefully stimulate much thought and I intend to work with our school councillors to establish ways that we can be more environmentally friendly within our daily lives at St Michael's.

After School/Breakfast Club

Please can those parents accessing this wrap-around provision continue to book on line using Lunchshop. We are aware that there have been a few technical issues with the website since coming back to school. If you have not managed to book a place for your child, please call the office to do so. We are in contact with the providers and hope that this will be resolved quickly. For those parents who did not book on line in November and December, invoices will be sent out shortly. Thank you for keeping our staff car park safe and accessible in the morning and parking in the bay across the road or in the layby. We also ask that pupils are 'handed' over to our Breakfast Club staff in the morning, in order to keep our children safe and as a first register that they are in school. If you have junior pupils and are happy for them to walk in independently, please can you let school know. There have been times when young children have

been dropped off before 8am and are unattended in the carpark and playground. This is a safeguarding concern and we want to avoid this happening to keep our children safe.

Outdoor Learning Space

Over the festive period, work started in our outdoor learning space at the back of our school. The newly created space is laid to bark, with a central fire pit. We are currently sourcing a tarpaulin to give shelter and tree stumps for seating. Each class will access this space weekly as part of our PSHE story time and it will help to bring our learning outdoors. Many thanks to Rachel Richards for her HSA fundraising, the Co-op for their sponsor money and Billy Mallinson, our governor, for overseeing the project. This space is in its infancy and will be developed over time with staff training. I hope it will be an area that will excite and inspire our pupils to learn outdoors.

Parents' Curriculum Evening

We are planning a parents' curriculum event after school on Wednesday 19th January. More details of timings and our risk assessments to keep everyone safe will be forwarded soon. Staff are also working on a class curriculum newsletter to keep you informed about teaching and learning for your child. These will be launched and explained at the event and we hope it will strengthen our home/school communication links.

I look forward to working with our pupils, staff and you, our parents, this term and hope that we can see a more natural school experience for our pupils as we work towards Easter. If you have any questions or need further information please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,



Mrs L Smith
Acting Headteacher