



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

10 June 2022

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding on Tuesday. It was with great frustration, but ultimately no choice, that we had to close the school. We have had a team of plumbers on site on Tuesday and Wednesday to fix the problems within our system and more extensive work is being planned at the start of the holidays, so that our pupils do not miss any more teaching and learning days.

We do have a busy half term ahead and are hoping for many dry days so that we can make the most of the outdoor experiences we have planned for our pupils.

SPORTS DAY

The first date planned is Thursday 30 June. If, due to wet conditions, it cannot go ahead, the reserve date will be Thursday 7 July. The Reception and KS 1 pupils will take part in their races first, between approximately 1pm – 2pm. The Junior pupils will then have their races, approximately between 2pm and 3pm. There will then be a whole school relay in house teams at the end of the event. Infant pupils will watch and support each other, as will the junior pupils – a slight change from previous years. All parents are welcome to attend.

REPORTS

All staff are busy writing your child's end of year report. It will be a slightly different format this year. I too am busy reading each completed report and am delighted with the progress and achievements of all of our pupils. Despite the restraints of COVID earlier this academic year, our pupils have shown great resilience and accessed many varied learning opportunities.

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

Our whole school attendance is currently 93.6%. The National average, in normal circumstances, is around 96%. Whilst I appreciate many absences are linked to Covid this year or short holidays that have been granted due to exceptional circumstances, it is now time to strive together collectively to raise our success in this area. We have supported many families this year as it has been the first opportunity for so many to meet up with family and have a rest/holiday in two years. However, next year, it is very unlikely that family holidays will be authorised.

Please either complete the online form or call school if your child is going to be absent. It is a safeguarding concern if pupils are not in school and we have not been able to get in touch with parents or guardians.

Being punctual and on time is also essential for pupils' self-esteem and wellbeing. At the start of the day many tasks are set to reinforce previous learning in a fun, independent way and phonics and spelling activities start promptly after registration. Pupils who are persistently late miss out on this part of their learning. If you are experiencing difficulties in getting your child to school on time, please get in touch and we will work to support you with this.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION

A huge thank you to all who attended the event and donated prizes for the raffle. It was a great success and despite a very brief shower, it stayed dry. Our pupils enjoyed accessing the carousel of activities and being part of a mixed team across all year groups. We raised £182 pounds and many thanks to Lyndsey Dalton and the HSA for their contributions. I do take on board the parental feedback received and whilst the event may have felt rather 'cheap', as a school/community we wanted to give something back to you as parents, in recognition of the many events and trips that you continue to support. We are pleased so many parents and family members attended and enjoyed it. Plans are in place to replace the PA system – my apologies for the dreadful feedback/high pitched noise on the day!

JUBILEE QUIZ WINNERS

There were only 5 entries that were completely correct. So many were just nearly right!

The winners are -

Laura and Brian Twigg, Team Jude, Lianne Hughes, Ophelia Gray's mum and Claire Wills. Well done! Please collect your prize from the office.

UNIFORM

We will be opening a uniform 'pop up shop' in the school hall on Monday 4 July after school for any parents who wish to purchase either new clothing or, at a very reduced price, pre-loved uniform. If you are unable to attend we will also be sending a uniform order in the near future, so that parents can pay/order from home. Our pupils will be given the uniform when payment has been received.

HAWES END

Our Year 6 pupils' residential trip at Hawes End takes place between Wednesday 22 June and Friday 24 June. Miss Mawson, Miss Rowe and Mrs Carruthers will be accompanying the pupils on this trip. We hope they enjoy the many activities planned.

MOVE UP/TRANSITION DAYS

The first 'move-up' day will be Thursday 23 June for Reception to Year 5 (as Year 6 will be on residential). The second day will be Monday 4 July as our Year 6 cohort will be visiting their secondary schools. All pupils should enter and leave school via the door for their new class. Details regarding class structures and staffing for next year will be sent out shortly.

FOND FAREWELLS

At the end of July we will be saying farewell to two very well respected, long standing members of staff.

Our school office manager, Carol McDonald, will be leaving us with huge boots to fill. Carol has been a great support to many senior leaders during her time at St Michael's and will be greatly missed. Carol has been part of the St Michaels' team for 16 years and always tackles tasks with integrity and dedication.

Our HLTA, Linda Hodgson, has also decided to leave the team after 38 years of tremendous service to our school. Mrs Hodgson has been our resident first aider and supported many pupils and staff in groups and class situations. She has a wealth of knowledge and skills that she has brought to her varied roles and will be greatly missed.

We wish them both well in the next part of their journey in life.

As always, if you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. This is going to be a busy action-packed half term with many exciting opportunities planned for our pupils.

Kind regards



Mrs Lorna Smith
Headteacher