



# 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

20 July 2022

Dear Parents,

As we end this school year, I wanted to finish by saying a huge thank you for your support, feedback, kind messages and emails of appreciation that I have received throughout the year. I have really enjoyed my first year as headteacher of St Michael's and feel so proud to lead a school with such enthusiastic, considerate and dedicated pupils. Our links with home can never be underestimated and I want to say how much we, as a team, appreciate the many times you have supported school trips, visits, events and extended curriculum opportunities.

I am currently reviewing our School Development Plan and feel very proud of our school curriculum developments this year. We have many things planned to launch in September including our curriculum charter, behaviour contracts, forest school lessons, weekly gymnastics by a specialist teacher ... to name but a few. Exciting times lie ahead for our pupils. More details will follow in September.

## RATLINGATE

Our whole school trip to Ratlingate was a huge success! I hope you enjoyed the separate flier that gave a greater insight into the variety of experiences on offer to our pupils that day. Thank you to our HSA who have funded the cost of the travel for this trip. It is very much appreciated.

## HSA

A further update with regards to money raised at our Jubilee celebrations. As a school we raised £194 for entry and a scone/cuppa. Our HSA raised £308 in their raffle. Thank you again to all who attended and supported this event. All monies raised help fund activities and experiences that further enhance our curriculum offer.

## YEAR 6 LEAVERS

Our Year 6 cohort are an incredible group of pupils and today we will say our farewells as their learning journey at St Michael's comes to an end. They leave us with our best wishes. Our Year 6 pupils will always be a part of St Michael's extended school family. Each and every one of them will always find a warm welcome should they visit our school at any point in the future. So, it's good luck and farewell but never goodbye!

## FOND FAREWELLS

Mrs Hodgson will be leaving us today, after 38 years of dedication to St Michael's. She will be a huge miss on our staff team from her expert knowledge of our school, first aid skills, cooking lessons and, most of all, her real care for our pupils. Mrs McDonald brings her commitment to running St Michael's school office to an end today after 16 years. Her friendly, calm and welcoming presence will be greatly missed. Mrs McDonald has also been our Clerk to the Governors and has supported the school in this role with unwavering dedication. She leaves behind huge boots to fill in our office. We wish both Mrs Hodgson and Mrs McDonald well on this next stage of life and hope they enjoy well-earned rests and some time to relax.

## TIME OUT

Mrs Davenport will be taking a year away from St Michael's. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Mrs Davenport as she commences her treatment in mid-August. We will be thinking of her throughout this leave of absence.

## INSET

As a staff team we will be having INSET on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of September. Training will be off-site on the Monday. School will be open to parents to purchase any uniform orders on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

## READING CHALLENGE

Over the summer we are launching a reading challenge. Where can you read? We are asking our pupils and staff to take photos of the many different places they have found to read and share a good book or story. We will have a school vote in September and prizes will be given to the most original and creative.

## RETURN TO SCHOOL

Our pupils return to school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Pupils should wear our normal school uniform - grey trousers/shorts/skirt, a white shirt and tie and a blue cardigan or jumper. Black school shoes should be worn.

## ATTENDANCE

This academic year short family holidays have been authorised due to many families missing out on shared experiences as a result of lockdowns from 2020. From September, absences will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances and not for holidays taken in term time. Please see attached the term dates for the next academic year. If your child is going to be absent from school for a planned event, this needs to be shared with our school office. All requests will be considered on an individual basis.

## DALSTON SHOW

I have been asked to pass on some details. The show is on Saturday 13th August and promises fun for all the family and, hopefully, some sunshine. There will be lots of competitions for the youngsters to get involved in and all details, including online entry, are on the website. <https://www.dalstonshow.co.uk/>  
There will also be 10K race for the budding athletes out there. There is currently a competition running on Facebook for a free family ticket.

Finally, may I wish you all a relaxing and happy holiday. May you enjoy many special family times together.

Kind regards



Mrs Lorna Smith  
Headteacher