



# 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*



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write with a few updates from school, before we break for a well earned half term. Our pupils have worked incredibly hard and have enjoyed many exciting and engaging learning opportunities both during lessons in school and within additional curricular experiences further afield.

I am very grateful for the continued support from so many of our parents and the tremendous staff team spirit here at St Michael's. We are continually striving to give our children the best education possible.

## SATS

Our Year 6 pupils showed great resilience and a super attitude towards their learning during SATS week. Some of the Maths reasoning questions were particularly challenging, but the tests were completed with a real 'I can do this and give it my best' attitude. Thank you also to the staff team and parents who helped out with the breakfast club at the start of the day.

## Personal Information Updates

Please can you ensure our school office has the correct contact information stored for your children. If you have moved house, changed telephone number or people we can contact in an emergency for your child, please let our office staff know so that they can update our records.

## Sporting News

It's been a busy time for sporting opportunities within school. Many pupils have taken part and shown super sportsmanship.

Pupils from across school took part in a Panathlon swimming gala at Workington leisure centre. Year 3/4 girls have reached the County Finals in football. Super St Michael's Year 4 ambassadors represented our school at a multi-skills event at Richard Rose Central. Our Year 5 boys and our Year 5/6 girls attended a Carlisle United football festival at Brunton Park. The Year 3/4 boys took part in the County Finals football tournament. Well done to all of our pupils and to Mrs Tait (our Sports Coordinator) and the parent volunteers who help transport our pupils and support these events.

## Pedal and Scoot

Our Reception children had a great day learning to scoot or pedal. Eight pupils learned to ride independently on their bikes and were absolutely delighted with themselves. Their beaming faces and sense of achievement was priceless! Other pupils developed greater confidence and skills in pedalling or cycling.

## Forest School

As part of their on-going training Mrs McArdle and Miss Rowe have delivered Forest School sessions to their classes. Our Reception and Year 6 pupils have loved learning in the outdoors. Team building activities involved making dens, building small fires, identifying plants and much more. Both staff continue to study for their qualification and become Forest School accredited leaders. As part of our school development plan, we hope to deliver similar experiences throughout the whole school for all of our pupils.



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## Cycle Training

Our Year 6 pupils benefited from fun, interactive cycling training earlier this week. Our pupils demonstrated their skills and competence on our school yard and then were given the opportunity to ride around the village, putting their skills into practise. A huge thank you to Mr Dinning, Mr Withers and Mr Harvey for delivering this training.

## Educational Visits

As part of our **Engaging, Purposeful, Inspiring and Continuous** curriculum, our staff team plan exciting visits to support our pupils' learning. This half term a few of the educational visits were -

Year 3 visited Thelkeld Quarry and Mining Museum as part of their learning in History and Science. The children were able to ride on a diesel train, and also learned about the history of the mine and its links to the railway. For the afternoon, they had the opportunity to pan for minerals in a stream – lots of exciting discoveries were made!

Year 2 pupils visited Carlisle castle as part of their History to explore how and why castles were built the way they were. The outing to the Wetlands at Aglionby involved pond dipping and exploring food chains in the pupils' Science work.

Year 5 pupils travelled by train to Carlisle library and took part in some active research to enhance their learning in Geography. Our pupils conducted surveys and were very polite and respectful when asking members of the public questions about the services and amenities available in Carlisle.

Some photos from these educational visits can be viewed on our school website and they share a little of how much our pupils benefit from such experiences. Thank you for your continued support in helping to fund and support these events. Many more educational visits are being planned for next half term.

## Swimming

Our pupils in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 have enjoyed taking part in weekly swimming lessons. It is great to see them develop their swimming skills and water confidence throughout these sessions.

## OPAL update



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Within school we have been working hard on plans to deliver Outdoor, Play and Learning for all pupils. We have a working party of staff, governors and parents. If you would like to become involved, please just ask and you will be very welcome. In the meantime, if you have any old kitchen pans, utensils, pallets or even a sink please can you save and donate to school for our mud kitchen. We will share more exciting plans for our school field next half term.

## Sports Day

Sports Day is planned for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. It will be our infant races from 9.30-11.00am and our junior races from 1.15-3.15pm. In the case of adverse weather, the reserve date is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Our HSA will be selling refreshments on the field and there will also be a raffle. If any parents are able to donate any prizes for the raffle or help out on the day, please contact the school office.

As always, if I can help you in any way or answer any queries you may have, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and our staff will arrange a time for you to meet with me.

I hope you and your family enjoy a happy half term holiday and that we have some good weather. We will welcome our pupils back to school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Yours sincerely

*Lorna Smith*

Mrs L Smith