



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 26th May 2023

Dear Parents,

As we finish for the half term, I write with some information about school events and future dates. It has been an incredibly busy half term with many successes.

Permanent Deputy Headteacher

Miss Mawson has been on secondment with us since September 2021. We are delighted to let you know that Miss Mawson has now been appointed as our permanent Deputy Headteacher at St Michael's Primary school. She is looking forward to continuing her work with our staff, pupils and families.

Science Success – 'If you were an engineer what would you do?'

We are delighted with the outcome from the entries that we submitted to the Primary Engineering competition during Science week. As a school we had 76 passes, 39 merit, 3 distinctions and 19 distinctions that were shortlisted. Thank you to all of our pupils who worked hard on their designs – a credit to our school.

Further to this we had two pupils who were regional winners – Luca Addison in Y5 and Mia Pagin in Y6. Alicia Young in Y3 was also highly commended for her design. These three pupils and their families will be invited to an awards ceremony in the near future. Congratulations and well done! We are so proud of our budding scientists and designers at St Michael's!

Year 6 Resilience

Our Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their shared breakfast during SATS week. Thank you to all parents who supported the running of this. During the week of national tests, as a staff team we were immensely proud of our pupil's positive attitude, resilience and ability to respond to a challenge. You may have seen some of the outcry in the national press around the Reading test – it was a very challenging text. Our pupils showed great perseverance and tried their best. We are very proud of their mature and reflective attitude to their learning – well done!

Fun Run – Guide Dogs for the Blind

On Thursday 15th June we will be taking part in a fundraising fun run/walk **blindfolded!** This is to raise awareness of how people who are visually impaired can be supported and to help raise funds for a worthwhile charity. Our pupils will be issued with more details and sponsor forms after half term.

Midday Supervisor

We currently have a vacancy within school for a Midday Supervisor. If you would like to join our team and can spare one and a quarter hours from 12-1.15pm to assist with our lunch time cover either every day or just a few days each week, please contact our school office for more details.

Be Healthy...Sun Safety Day HSA

Our HSA are asking all pupils to come into school on Friday 7th July – ready for summer! Children are being asked to wear their favourite shorts and t-shirts, sun hat/cap and sunglasses and be ready for summer. We will be talking to our pupils about being aware of protecting our skin and eyes from the sun and staying hydrated on hot sunny days.



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Pupils can bring a donation on the day – all monies raised will go towards our funds to support extra-curricular enhancements.

Sun Safety

Our pupils have enjoyed these warm, sunny days and have had lots of fun on the school field. Please can pupils bring a sun hat and apply sun cream before coming to school. If pupils have sun cream in their bag, staff will supervise them whilst they apply their own cream. It is also best if pupils have their own water bottle in school that can be refilled throughout the day, as needed.

Class/Team Photos

Tempest will be coming into school on Wednesday 7th June in the morning. They will take class and team photos which can be ordered online using the information we send home.

Football Success

Our Year 3/4 boys football team won the Carlisle large school competition and returned home very proud with The Bob Simmons trophy! This is the first time St Michael's has won it. The same team also came second in the County league. We are very proud of their sporting ability and sportsmanship. Huge congratulations to Arthur Brown, Kayson Blake, James Dean, Isaac Wood, James Foxcroft, Olly Leiba, Oliver Winrow and Charlie Dicker. Thank you to Neil Dickinson and Mrs Oliphant for their support.

New Starters

Within school we have welcomed several new starters to our school. Thank you to the warm welcome they have received. We will also have another couple of children joining us after half term and of course our new Reception children on their taster days. I am sure our pupils will extend their kindness and friendship to welcome them to St Michael's.

Year 6 Chefs and Dolce

As part their Design and Technology work, our Year 6 pupils have been making and tasting different types of burgers – chicken, turkey, beef and veggie/chick pea, to name a few. Wendy, the Area Manager for Dolce our school catering service, visited their lesson when they were in the cooking and preparing stage. She has offered to source the ingredients and make the most popular burger as voted for by the class, at the end of their food design unit for a school dinner. Our pupils are very excited and motivated by this – real chefs, creating real recipes to cater for our school dinners! Watch this space...

Year 4 Bright Stars

Our Year 4 class are thoroughly enjoying their business enterprise project with Nestle staff. Each pupil has been interviewed for a position on the team – ranging from finance to marketing and design. In their roles, our children have written letters, designed posters, decorated and recycled old bean tins to make plant tub holders, potted and planted seeds and seedlings, as well as decorated many cakes to sell in their pop-up shop. Crofton Plants kindly donated the plants. As a team we are grateful to the support and direction from Nestle staff and are very proud of the teamwork, energy and enthusiasm from our young recruits in Year 4! To date, they have made over £300 which will be split between our school garden and The Salvation Army.



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Enhanced Curricular Experiences

Throughout this half term, our pupils have taken part in many enhanced curricular activities, experiences and visits to enhance their learning to ensure our curriculum offer is EPIC – (engaging, purposeful, individual and continuous). This has included, pond dipping, feeding the lambs and cuddling goslings on the farm, visiting the lifeguards and a promenade walk along the seaside town of Silloth, making fresh pizza at Pizza Express, exploring Carlisle Castle, making healthy snacks with Phunky foods and taking part in a Water Aid presentation – to list but a few! On each of these outings away from school, our pupils have been praised for their behaviour, respect and kindness – a huge well done! We are very grateful to our HSA who help subsidise travel costs and resource many of these planned tasks for our children. Without their support many of these things would not be possible. Thank you for all that they do for our school community.

Further exciting events are planned – funded by our HSA including a Brazilian dance workshop for our junior pupils, a Reception class visit to see Julia Donaldson's 'Zog' and our outdoor activities whole school trip to Rattlingate.

House Team Success – 'Running' to Buckingham Palace

Our house teams have been running around the track to 'collectively travel' to Buckingham Palace. The plan was to run as a team 314 miles. Whilst we celebrated the King's coronation over the bank holiday, our four house teams, using their totalled miles were just south bound past Preston! However, all pupils have stuck with the challenge and have been running around the track collecting laps (7 laps make a mile) to help their team reach London. A week later these were the results:

147 miles Blencathra – Crewe
152 miles Skiddaw – North Stoke on Trent
156 miles CatBells – South Stoke on Trent
166 miles Scafell – Stafford

I can now happily say that all four teams have 'made it' to London. The first house team and the winners of the challenge were Scafell!

Dalston Tokens

Each week our pupils 'earn' a blue Dalston token for their house team. Pupils following our St Michael's code of conduct or learning behaviours, (the top 10), will be rewarded with a blue token. All staff carry these tokens in their pockets and give them out whenever exemplary behaviours are displayed by our pupils. This helps to build on our positive learning culture throughout school. These tokens are collected in the team jars and totalled on a Friday. The pupils in the winning house team earn a small reward – which they often vote to be a bit longer time playtime on the field.

Raffle Prizes

Our Year 6 pupils have been busy writing to local businesses requesting any donations/prizes for our HSA raffle at our Sports Day. If you can donate anything to add to our raffle please bring to the school office. Thank you in advance for your support as every little helps.



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Diary Dates for next half term

Tuesday 6 th June 2pm	Reception New starters Induction parents' meeting
Thursday 15 th June	Blindfold Fun Run for the Guide Dogs (school field/track)
Tuesday 20 th – Monday 26 th June	Bikeability Y5
Wednesday 21 st – Friday 23 rd June	Hawes End Y6 residential
Thursday 22 nd June	Induction Day/Move up Day Reception – Y5
Tuesday 27 th June (Reserve date – Tuesday 4 th July)	Sports Day
Friday 30 th June	Y5 Taster Day at Caldew
Monday 3 rd July	Induction Day/Move up Day Y6 visit secondary school
Wednesday 12 th July	Rattlingate – whole school trip
Thursday 13 th July	Carnival Brazilian dance workshop Y3/4/5/6
Tuesday 18 th July	Y6 Leavers' assembly
Wednesday 19 th July 1.30pm finish	Last Day of Term

As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything with me, please contact the school office and they will arrange an appointment. Finally, thank you for your continued support from home. It is a real pleasure to work within a school community that strives to provide the best education and experiences for our young learners.

May I wish our families a lovely break and hope that you enjoy the good weather and some special times together. I look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Monday 5th June.

Kind Regards

Mrs Smith