



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*



Monday 3rd March 2025

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy and productive start to this half term. Ben shared collective worship with the whole school on Wednesday and we have started thinking about forgiveness and what it means to forgive someone and to make a sacrifice. Our pupils starting thinking about Shrove Tuesday and its significance in the Christian calendar.

I write with a few updates for your information.

World Book Day

On Thursday we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. Pupils and staff will be dressing up as book characters and sharing favourite extracts from many different stories. We would also like to invite you to our reading café at the end of the school day.

Reading Café

Our reading café will be open in the school hall on Thursday 6th March at 3.30pm. Christine is making cupcakes... so come and join us for a cuppa and a cake whilst sharing some great stories with your child/children. Staff will also be sharing some book related activities on the night.

Parents' Meetings

On Tuesday 25th March and Thursday 27th March, class teachers will be available to meet with you to discuss your child's progress and next steps in their learning. I hope as many parents as possible will take up this opportunity to meet and share your child's development with their teacher. Online bookings will open later today on Arbor.

Chair of Governors

Ms Hogarth's term of governance has come to an end last half term. Rachel has played a huge role as our co-chair of governors and has given relentlessly of her time and dedication to our school board. We are incredibly grateful for her commitment to chair the governance of our school for over eight years. Rachel will be missed by governors and staff alike and we extend our deepest thanks to her in supporting our school's development from a double RI grade to a very strong 'good' Ofsted grading.

For your information, Mr Billy Mallinson (previously co-chair alongside Rachel), will now chair our board of governors.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Within school we currently have two parent governor vacancies. A letter explaining how to register an interest and be considered for these voluntary positions will be sent out this week. I am available to talk through this role in more detail for anyone interested.

Term Time Absence

Please note that as headteacher, I am no longer able to authorise holidays in term time. Our Local Authority operate a fining system for parents choosing to take pupils out of school to go on holiday. Please can I kindly ask that whenever possible pupils attend school.



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End of Term

Spring term finishes on Friday 4th April at 1.30pm. There will be no after school club on this day. We hope to share an Easter service in church before finishing. Regrettably as it is a whole school worship, we cannot extend the invite to parents or the wider school, community.

HSA (Home School Association)

Firstly, we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Mrs Lyndsey Dalton who has chaired the HSA for many years. Her contributions, energy and voluntary commitment in organising extra school events including discos, fairs and Sports Day refreshments has been incredible. Her input has helped the HSA raise many thousands of pounds over the years that has helped fund school transport to many trips and extra-curricular opportunities. Mrs Dalton has now stepped down from this role and we would like to say a huge thank you for all of her hard work.

We are also grateful to Mrs Orr and Mrs Sharkey who have taken on the reins as co-chairs and we look forward to the many events and exciting opportunities they will organise for our school community to raise funds to support our pupils. If you have a spare couple of hours each month and would like to become involved in our HSA, please contact Miss Jonsson in our school office for further details.

HSA School Disco

Our HSA are busy planning a Spring disco for our pupils on Wednesday 19th March. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be from 3.30pm until 4.45pm. The Junior disco is 5-6.15pm. Pupils can be dropped off and collected from the main school entrance. Tickets cost £4 and need to be purchased by Friday 14th March.

School Uniform

Within school we are reflecting on and reviewing our school uniform code. We will be talking to the pupils in class circle times to hear their ideas and suggestions. During parents' evenings there will be an opportunity for you to share your ideas in the school hall with either myself or Miss Mawson. We will then consider all viewpoints and update our school uniform code and share with you in a timely manner. Please note, any changes that are implemented will be from September.

Packed Lunches/Snacks

We are also reviewing our school guidance for packed lunches and snacks within school. Again, we wish to take on board pupils, staff and parents' views. Your contributions will be welcome around this area on parents' evening in the hall and we will also issue our policy guidance on packed lunches and playtime snacks for pupils after consultation and in a timely manner.

As always, if you want to discuss anything further, I am available to meet with you. Please contact the school office and Miss Jonsson will make you an appointment.

Kind regards

Lorna Smith

Mrs Smith