



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 30th January 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. I write with a few updates for this half term.

Firstly, may I say a huge thank you to all the families who have sent in photos of our pupils reading and enjoying books in conventional ways and in unusual, quirky styles too. It has given a real excitement to launching GO ALL IN 2026 – the Year of Reading in our school and our nation. We will continue to display photos in the library for all pupils to share. The library has had a bit of a revamp which the children are enjoying.

Reception Teddy Bears' Sleepover – GO ALL IN 2026

Yesterday, our Reception children came to school in their pyjamas with their teddy bear. Throughout the day they designed a bed for their bear and shared lots of stories. At the end of the day, they shared their favourite bed time stories with their bears, tucked them into bed and left them for a night in their classrooms. In the morning when the children returned, they were excited to see their teddies again and more great stories were shared. This experience reinforces the invaluable experience of sharing quality stories before bedtime. Pupils really benefit from this evening routine and it helps enrich their language and understanding of the world. Reading for enjoyment can never be underestimated.

School Council

Our School Council have met and voted on the school kitchen hatch designs to launch our school restaurant. We received lots of fantastic entries and the school council chose their favourite five. The winners received a cake mix pack of their choice, we're looking forward to hearing about how they get on with their baking. We will now work on a final design ready for going to the printers. Watch this space!

Mental Health Week

Within school we are preparing some exciting learning opportunities to launch Mental Health week in school on Monday 9th February. On Monday 9th February we are asking that children wear something yellow to school – socks, hair band, jumper etc. Except for the item of yellow clothing, normal school uniform should be worn. Further details of events within this week will be sent out very soon.

Internet Safety

Safer Internet Week is also in the week beginning Monday 9th February. This year we have booked workshops for all of our pupils to take part in.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 safer internet sessions will be online. Our junior pupils will have in person workshops within school focusing on – 'Be Kind on Line' for Year 3 and 4 and 'Cyber Critical' for Year 5 and 6.

All sessions will encourage our pupils to think critically and enable them to make healthy choices, to stop and prevent on line bullying, stay safe on line and for our older pupils support them in their understanding of AI.



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School Assessments/ Attainment Records

Within school, we have been reviewing how we share your child's attainment throughout the year. Alongside the bi-annual parents' meetings and annual report we would like to trial sharing your child's progress, results and attainment in Maths, Reading and Writing each term. Next week we will launch our Attainment Profile for your child. You will receive a hard copy which details their results at the end of last term in the above three areas. It will also indicate next steps in their learning to help them to flourish and develop. As always, when launching something new, there may be some teething problems, please bear with us. Class teachers and myself are available to discuss any questions you may have when the attainment profiles are sent out.

Relish

In order to keep all school meal accounts manageable, Relish will be capping accounts at £50 deficit from Monday 23rd February. This means that parents will not be able to accrue debt beyond £50.

Cross Country Runners

On Wednesday 28th February two of our pupils – Tom Johnston (Y4) and Rory Davenport (Y6) represented our school at the County Cross Country competition held at Sedburgh School. We are very proud of them and they all showed great sporting attitudes, resilience and fantastic running – Well done! Thank you to all parents who supported this event.

HSA

Our Home School Association provides a great support to our school. Through their fundraising events we are able to subsidise the cost of coach travel and provide many additional opportunities for our pupils.

We are hoping to recruit new parents to join this great group of people. Your continued support as parents will help to ensure the sustainability of this group. Please contact the school office if you would like to become involved.

We would like to thank Tracey Sharkey and Emma Orr for the many voluntary hours they have given to support the HSA as joint chairs and the work of our school.

Thank you for your continued support and as always, I am available if you need to discuss anything further with me. Please just make an appointment at the school office.

Kind Regards

Lorna Smith



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