



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 31st January 2025

Dear Parents,

Within school our children have been enjoying their learning and responding to the new daily challenges with some super perseverance and rigour. It is a real delight to visit each classroom and hear our pupils enthused and energised with their learning. In this newsletter, I write with a few updates from school.

Cross Country Running

Several of our pupils represented our school at the County competition in Sedbergh. All pupils should be very proud of their fantastic running and success. They were great ambassadors for our school. Thank you to Mrs Oliphant, who volunteers and transports our pupils with Mrs Tait.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Engineer Visit

Chris Holliday has been in school working with our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils on 'If you were an engineer what would you design?' Chris is a past pupil and local engineer and it is great to have his input in our science and technology lessons to inspire our pupils. He was very impressed with some of their designs including battery powered feet warmers and solar powered swings.

Artist of The Term

This term, Miss Mawson has launched our Artist of the term competition. Eric Carle is our artist in focus. We look forward to seeing the art pieces our pupils produce in his style.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Next week we will be launching Mental Health Awareness Week in school and asking our pupils what steps we can take to help keep our mind and our bodies healthy. On Friday we would like all pupils to come into school wearing a scarf as an added accessory to their normal school uniform.

SCARF Day Friday

Pupils can wear a scarf to school on Friday 7th February to compliment normal school uniform. We will be discussing Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship, linked to our own mental health in our collective worship.

World Book Day

Thursday 6th March is World Book Day. We are asking our pupils to dress as their favourite book character and to read an extract from their favourite book in class or assembly that day. It has not been possible to visit Carlisle library this year, as they are not taking school visits at the moment due to refurbishment works.

Parents' Meetings with Teachers

We would like to give you advance notice of our parents' evening meetings this term. Teachers will be available to meet with you on Tuesday 25th March and Thursday 27th March from 3.30pm until 6pm. We want to share your child's success, work in books and their next steps in learning. We do hope as many parents as possible will be able to meet with their child's class teacher to share this information. Booking will open online, nearer the time, and a text message will be sent as a reminder.



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HSA Meeting

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Lyndsey Dalton who has been the chair of our HSA for several years. Lyndsey has worked tirelessly with her team to plan, prepare and fundraise many school events. We are forever grateful to the volunteering hours she has given so that our pupils can access many additional opportunities with the additional funds the HSA have raised. On Wednesday 12th February our HSA will meet in school at 7pm to discuss future roles and would warmly invite any new parents to come along. The HSA meetings are fun, friendly and everyone is welcome.

Y5/6 Football Success

Our Year 5/6 mixed football team won the County large school football competition last term. They are training in preparation for the North Regional competition next month. Mr Wood has arranged several matches with other local schools and we wish our children well in this next stage. Thank you to Mr Wood and Mrs Tait for the additional match time with other larger schools in the area.

Supporting Pupils with Reading

We are very grateful to Mrs West who volunteers on a weekly basis to support our Year 1 pupils with reading. If you have any free time and would like to help out I school in this way, please can you contact the school office

School Kitchen and Lunches

Our school council are currently surveying classes to name our school diner. Lots of names have been suggested and we hope to announce the winner very soon. Our pupils will then design a wall mural for the front of the hatch. Christine is also going to work with each class on menu choices and each class will have a free taster day soon – watch this space. We are thrilled with the quality and variety of the meals on offer and feel very proud to have Christine as our in-house school cook. Exciting times ahead!

Midday Supervisor

Within school we would like to recruit an additional midday supervisor to help with our lunchtime cover. If you can give an hour in the day between 12 and 1pm and enjoy working with children, please contact the school office.

Wheelchair Rugby

On Monday 10th February we will be taking part in wheelchair rugby. All of our pupils will get a chance to play with their peers and we hope they enjoy this experience.

Bikes and Scooters

Please can children refrain from riding bikes and scooters in the school yards for everyone's safety.

As always, I am available to meet with you if you want to discuss anything linked to school life further. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office and Miss Jonsson will make an appointment.

Kind regards,

Lorna Smith