



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*



6 September 2024

Dear Parents,

NEW BEGINNINGS

Welcome back to St Michael's to our pupils in Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and a very special welcome to our new Reception pupils. We also welcome new pupils to our Year 4 class. As a staff team we are delighted to be back and looking forward to the many exciting learning opportunities for our pupils this term and academic year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our children look very smart in their new school uniform. It is great to see them in the autumn/winter uniform with crisp white shirts and ties – smart and ready to learn. All pupils will need a PE kit in school every day that stays on their peg, ideally in a small draw string bag or boot bag. This helps to keep our cloakrooms tidy as space is limited. This year we will be offering parents the opportunity to purchase second hand uniform, at significantly reduced prices. We are sorting and organising our second-hand stock to ensure it is washed, clean and of a high standard. More details will follow in due course.

PARKING

I know parking is difficult close to school. There are parking places in the village, please try to use these as much as possible. When parking close by to private residential properties, we ask that you respect drive ways and entrances and leave enough room for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchair access on the pavements. Your support with this is greatly appreciated and helps us to keep everyone safe in our local school community.

SCHOOL CROSSING

Steve Carruthers helps to keep our children safe whilst crossing Carlisle Road. Please can you encourage your child to cross with him and avoid crossing before to enter the reception gate. Modelling this whilst dropping off and collecting is really key to keeping all of our pupils safe.

HOMEWORK

We ask that you support your child with their reading at home as much as you can – ideally at least four times each week for approximately 20 minutes each time. It is much better to make this a relaxed and enjoyable experience, to develop a love of books, stories and information finding rather than a chore. Junior pupils will also continue to have a Maths online task on a weekly basis. Junior pupils (Y3-Y6) will have weekly spellings and will also have a weekly grammar task, starting later this month. As a staff team we are currently reviewing how we teach spelling and grammar and will write to you soon about how this will be supported in the homework we set for our pupils. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this whilst we review and update our teaching provision.



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COMMUNICATION

Effective home/school communication helps our children to grow in confidence and really engage with their learning. It is really important to us as a team that we communicate on a regular basis and that we keep you informed of future events. Our website contains lots of useful information and is regularly updated. Regular newsletters, emails and texts will continue to be sent out to ensure information is shared. Class half termly curriculum newsletters and quiz me question grids will be sent out very soon with further details of what our pupils are learning. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with either your child's class teacher, Miss Mawson or myself. We want to answer any of your queries and encourage you to have an active role in your child's education.

'WHATS APP/SOCIAL MEDIA'

I am aware that many class cohorts have 'Whats App' parent groups. These can be a very valuable way of sharing ideas, organising opportunities for the children and keeping in touch as parents. It has come to light that occasionally some parents are venting concerns or issues within this forum and other online apps, (Facebook) before they have discussed it with myself or my team in school. These conversations can then escalate and become very negative, when they could easily be resolved through direct communication with school. May I ask that all parents speak directly with myself, Miss Mawson or class teachers if you have any concerns. In doing so this will help us to have a happy, thriving and positive school community for everyone.

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Just a reminder that places in breakfast club and after school club can be booked in advance on School Cloud. Ideally this should be done before the day that supervision is required. Should you require a place on the same day, please ensure that you ring the school office and make them aware of your booking.

PACKED LUNCHES

We have several pupils in school with serious allergies. Pupils must not bring anything in their packed lunch that contains nuts. Chocolate spread sandwiches contain hazelnuts and should not be given. Our pupils must not share anything in their packed lunch with others as some pupils may be dairy tolerant or have further dietary needs. We appreciate your support with this.

St Michael's teaching team and myself look forward to a happy, engaging year ahead full of exciting learning opportunities for our children.

As always, please do get in touch if I can help you in any way.

Kind regards

Lorna Smith

Mrs Smith