



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*

8 September 2023

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 3, Year 4 and Year 5 classes. Miss Butcher joins our teaching team in Year 1 and Miss Mayer has joined our support staff as a teaching assistant and is working in Reception and Year 2. We are also delighted to have Mrs Miller back this term- who is job sharing with Miss Butcher in Year 1.

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 tasks on a weekly basis. (This will be in addition to any online maths activities they take part.) Junior pupils (Y3-Y6) will have weekly spellings and our Year 6 pupils will also have a weekly grammar task.

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



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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.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

We are in the process of finalising our extra-curricular clubs for this half term. Further details and information will follow shortly.

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.

JOHNSTON FAMILY NEWS

We are delighted to let you know that Mrs Johnston gave birth to a gorgeous baby girl, Dulcie on Tuesday 15th August. It's a busy but exciting time as she is welcomed by her two older brothers Barnaby (4) and Louis (2). We hope that Mr and Mrs Johnston don't have too many sleepless nights and enjoy this very special time.

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
Mrs Smith