



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School

Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 7LN • Tel: 01228 711544 • Acting Headteacher: Mrs L Smith

Our school values: Respect • Kindness • Challenge • Forgiveness • Perseverance

27 August 2021

Dear Parent

I hope you have had a lovely Summer break. We are feeling excited and energised and very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 2 September. I wanted to share some COVID updates with you and some general 'housekeeping' information as we begin to manage the cautious re-opening of a more 'normal' teaching day at St Michael's. Your child's class teacher will be sending a letter with more specific classroom information regarding PE days and so on early in the new term.

Firstly, I hope you like the new letterhead and key Christian message 'Let your light shine' (Matthew 5:16). We firmly believe in this for all of our pupils and staff at St Michael's. Many thanks to Mrs Cook for her work in designing this for our school.

Covid update

Within school, we are continuing to manage the risks of Covid infection. As many of you may already know, the government issued new guidance on the 16 August for schools. The key messages are:

'Under-18s and double vaccinated adults **will not need to self-isolate** if they are a close contact of a positive case. We will strongly advise them to take a PCR test, and if positive, will need to isolate.' Pupils and adults who test positive should isolate for ten days and we will offer home-school learning.

All pupils will take part in regular handwashing and carefully managed social contact with all classrooms being ventilated as much as possible. The new term will see the return of some face to face assemblies and some shared play and lunch times between year groups. These will be managed carefully with two year groups sharing playtimes and assemblies – Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. We will continue to review this gentle easing of more contact and socialising as we move towards a more normal teaching day. Staff will continue to wear face masks in communal, shared areas.

School Visits

We are asking that visits into school continue to be by appointment only and that all adults on site continue to wear a face covering. We do, however, want to keep our home/school communication links strong and, to assist with this, Mrs Roberts will be on duty every morning, on the infant yard, to receive any messages or information you want to pass on to respective class teachers or the office.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Our school gates will open at 8.50am and all pupils will be able to go straight into their class.

Reception: Farm gate on the front yard and access to school through the reception door.

Year 1: Main entrance gate and access through the main doors.

Year 2: Farm gate at the front yard and access through the door via the ramp.

Year 3: Junior gate, at the rear of the school and access through class door

Year 4: Junior gate at the rear of the school and access through the junior door

Year 5: Small brown gate at the front of school and access through the external class door.

Year 6: Junior gate at the rear of the school and access through the class 6 external door.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are collected at 3.20pm. All junior children finish school at 3.30pm. If your child is walking home or has permission to meet you outside of the playground/school gates, please make sure that this information is shared with their class teacher.

Uniform

My sincere apologies for the delay in the PE uniform being ready - the design process of the new logo with Schudio has taken longer than anticipated. However, we hope to receive this next week and will let you know as soon as it is ready for collection. Main uniform: children will need a white shirt, tie and a blue cardigan or jumper and grey or black trousers/skirt/pinafore. School shoes should be black. We are happy for pupils to wear plain black trainer type shoes, providing they have no bright colours or logos. For PE pupils will need a PE top, navy shorts and trainers. We recommend that pupils have a school hoodie and tracksuit bottoms for the colder days.

All orders for PE kit will be distributed once we have received it – we will be in touch regarding payment – please note the new t-shirts cost £7 each, everything else is the same price as before. If your child is NOT in Reception and needs a tie or bookbag, please see Mrs Roberts in the infant yard. Once we have received cash payment (£4 for ties and £5 for bags) we will pass the items on to your child. Reception children will receive separate information next week.

Equipment

Pupils will not need to bring their own pencil cases to school as individual packs will be given out within each class to comply with Covid regulations. All pupils should bring a water bottle to school and a book bag.

Lunches

For those pupils having school dinners, please make sure this is ordered online. If you need a log in, please contact school and we will sort this for you. From Year 3, pupils have to pay for school dinners at £2.40 per meal, unless you are entitled to Free School meals – please contact the office if you would like more details.

In the meantime, I hope you have an enjoyable last few days of the holidays and if you have any queries, please email lsmith@st.michaels.cumbria.sch.uk. I look forward to welcoming you and your children to the start of a new term on Thursday 2 September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Smith, Acting Headteacher