



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School



Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 7LN · Tel: 01228 711544 · Acting Headteacher: Mrs J Paisley

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

8 February 2018

Dear Parents

We seem to have hurtled through the last half term. I can hardly believe it is almost at an end! However, after yesterday's "Dalston Dollars" shopping experience and welcoming our Governors into school for the day, I feel that the children, myself and the rest of the staff are more than ready for a few days' break!

I thought it was a good time to give you some updates on what is happening here at school and let you know about a few things which will be ongoing after the half term break.

Home School Agreement

We will shortly be issuing you with a new Home School Agreement. Please could you take the time to read through this with your child/children and return it to school once signed. It will reflect some important recent changes to our behaviour policy in school (which can be found on our website) and sets out clearly what we can expect from each other. Joint working between home and school really does form the backbone of all we do here at St. Michael's and this agreement formalises that commitment on both sides.

Headteacher Recruitment

Some of you will have noticed on our website that the recruitment process for a permanent Headteacher is now underway. We will update you on any developments as soon as we are able.

Holiday Requests

In the past parents have been asked to make an appointment with the Headteacher to discuss holiday requests. From February half term rather than making an appointment you will need to put any holiday requests in writing, stating why it is necessary for you to take holidays in term time. Please remember I am only permitted to grant holiday requests in exceptional circumstances, and only if attendance is good. I will respond to all requests in writing.

Homework

I have spoken to many of you regarding homework over the past few weeks. Following February half term we will be reviewing our policy on homework and we will feed this back to you once we have set clear expectations for each year group.

World Book Day

A date for your diary! Thursday 1 March is World Book Day. Mrs McArdle has been working hard with the School Council to pull together ideas and activities for the day. More details of these will follow. However, you may be wanting to start putting some thought to costumes. The theme is simply "favourite characters" and these should be from books rather than films or television. Please do not feel obliged to spend a lot of money on costumes, home-made is definitely the way to go!

School Money

We have set up a one-month trial of 'School Money', an online payment service. A separate letter will be sent out today with all the information you need. Obviously, it is not ideal that it is half term next week, but I would urge you to at least have a go if there are any payments due for your child (clubs for example). The trial is limited to Junior children, but if feedback is positive, we will extend the service to all of the school.

And finally...

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first half term as Acting Head at St. Michael's and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of what we do on a day to day basis. It truly does make a massive difference.

Have an enjoyable half term and we will see you back here on Monday 19 February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Paisley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Paisley,
Acting Headteacher