



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School



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

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

6 September 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome back to you all. The children have made a great start to our new school year. They have been bursting with energy and full of tales of the fantastic Summer break they have had.

As we come to the end of a very busy first week I'd like to take the opportunity to pass on some information about the coming term and a few reminders about some systems in our school. I'm afraid as there is quite a lot of information to pass on it is going to be quite a bumper edition. Please bear with me!

New Staff

We are incredibly pleased to be welcoming three new members of staff to our team this year. Miss Creagh is joining us as Year 4 class teacher to cover Mrs Johnston's maternity leave. Helping her in Year 4 is Mrs Rennie, who many of you know already from our After School Club. Mrs Fairlam, who carried out supply cover for us in Year 2 last year, also joins our team, as Teaching Assistant with Year 1.

Keeping "In The Know"

We send out regular information and reminders via letter, email and text. Please make sure that all of your details are up to date with the office to ensure you receive these. Our website is a great source of information too. I would encourage you all to make yourself familiar with this.

Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart indeed and we would like this to remain the case all year. Our school uniform is part of our identity as a member of the St. Michael's family and wearing it correctly is a sign of respect. Shoes in particular often become an issue. Shoes should be black, with no heel and a closed toe. Trainer type school shoes are acceptable as long as they are plain black (including soles) with no visible logos. Information about uniform can be found on our website. PE kit is available from the school office. Please make sure that all items of uniform are labelled with your child's name. All children should also bring a labelled water bottle into school with them. Can I remind you that only water is allowed in these in order to encourage healthy choices but also so that any accidental spills in the classroom can be easily mopped up (trying to get sticky juice spills off exercise books is a real challenge).

Tuck Shop

Tuck shop for the junior children will start again on Monday and will be run by a team of Year 5 pupils. We aim to sell snacks which are a healthier option to sweets, fizzy drinks and crisps. Typical tuck items may be rice cakes, malt loaf bars, popcorn, water, fruit juice and cereal bars. We will, on occasion, also offer more of a "treat" option, such as ice pops or flavoured water. Items cost 30p each and children are able to purchase a maximum of one food item and one drink per day. The children will also need to be responsible for their own money. If your child brings their own snack to school, please ensure this is healthy.

Dinners

Thank you to everyone who remembered to order dinners through Lunchshop for the start of term. Can I remind you that ordering your child's meal is your responsibility? If you have problems logging in or have any queries Mrs Cook and Mrs McDonald will be happy to give you a demonstration and help you get started.

Holidays

I am not permitted to authorise holidays except in exceptional circumstances (which does not include family holidays). However, I do understand that sometimes holidays in term time are unavoidable. If you do have a request for holidays during term time this needs to be put in writing, including the circumstances which are making it necessary for you to request time off during term time. Please hand these letters into the office. I will then look into your request and get back to you. Taking holidays without requesting them in advance must be marked as unauthorised absence on your child's record.

Parents' Evenings

We will be holding our Autumn Term Parents' Evenings after half term and I will contact you nearer the time with information. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do contact their teacher.

Weather proofing

We have not been blessed with the best weather for the start of term. Whenever possible we aim to take the children outside at break times, therefore please make sure they bring a coat with them each day. Even if the sun is out on the way to school, it can very quickly become dull and wet.

Nut-free

We are a nut-free school. We have several children in school with nut allergies and it is very important that we keep them safe. Please ensure that your children are not bringing products into school which contain nuts. This includes Nutella in sandwiches and cereal bars and biscuits containing nuts.

French

Last term I wrote to you about proposed changes to our Modern Foreign Languages provision within school. After further deliberation over the Summer we have decided that all classes will now learn French rather than German. This will bring us in line with other local Primary Schools and our feeder Secondary schools. We will, however, be offering a German after school club to Y5 & 6 and a Spanish club to Y3 & 4.

Aldi Sticker Scheme

We are taking part in a scheme being run by Aldi which launches on Friday 6 September and runs until 3 November. During this period every time you shop at Aldi and spend over £30 you will be offered a sticker to bring into school. If we collect 300 stickers we will receive a free sports kit for school. Please let your friends and family know that we are taking part in this.

Dates for the diary

12 September:	Year 3 swimming lessons start
20 September:	Non-uniform day organised by our Home School Association
27 September:	Children will attend St. Michael's Day Service at the church
3 October:	KS2 take part in workshops run by the Muslim Learning Service
9 – 11 October:	Year 6 residential visit to Lockerbie Manor
16 October:	Year 1 & 2 'Pyjama Drama' road safety workshops
17 October:	Harvest Festival, 9.30am, St. Michael's Church. Parents and family are very welcome to come along.

Mrs J Paisley, Headteacher