



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*

20 March 2020

Dear Parents

It is with great sadness I write this letter to you. It seems unthinkable that at the end of today St. Michael's will close its doors to the vast majority of our children. How long this will be for remains unknown. I sincerely hope that it is not for as long as some are fearing.

This letter is not an update. It is a personal letter from myself to every one of you. I want to say thank you for your ongoing support over the past few weeks. It has been a trying time for all of us and your kind words have meant a great deal.

As some of you will know, St. Michael's has been designated as a Hub School. This means that from Monday our staff will continue to work to provide care for the children of Key Workers. As yet we do not know what this will look like nor who will be directed to us. Hopefully, both school and parents will receive some clarity over this very soon. If you are a Key Worker, please do not assume that your child will be directed to St. Michael's. You will receive further information soon.

I have just spent some time with our Year 6 class, who, perhaps more than anyone in school, have turned up this morning with a real sense of uncertainty. There is of course a very real possibility that this may be the last time they come to St. Michael's. So, I would like to pass the following on to our Year 6 children and their parents:

You started here at St. Michael's at a very similar time to me. I feel that for the past seven years we have been on a bit of a journey together. It has been a pleasure and a privilege getting to know you all over that time. I really hope that today is not your last day with us. I hope last Monday was not the last time I got to sing "You've Got A Friend" with you, or that this morning was not the last time I got to travel to school with Dan in the car, or this week was not the last time I got to come into your class and be overwhelmed by your attitude, perseverance and zest for life. You are an amazing group of young people and, whatever happens during this crazy time, I know you will continue to do well and have bright and brilliant futures. Hopefully, you will be back with us before the end of the school year but, if not, I promise you this – we will be in touch with you all and will organise some leavers' celebrations for you so that you do not miss out.

The next few months will undoubtedly hold some bumpy times for all of us. Stay safe, stay sane and take care of each other. You will all be in my thoughts and I will keep in contact with you all via text and email.

With love

Julie Paisley