



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

26 May 2021

Dear Parents

As you will have seen from the email sent out on Monday, we were visited by OFSTED yesterday. It will probably seem that we have been visited by them quite a lot recently (I know it seems that way to us!). I therefore felt it was a good idea to explain why the Inspections have taken place in order to avoid anyone thinking it may be for a negative reason.

Our last Full Inspection was in February 2020. Following this we were expecting a Monitoring Inspection after about thirteen months. However, because routine inspections were paused during the pandemic, meaning we were only four months from the last inspection in real terms, we (wrongly) presumed that we would not be visited quite so soon. The purpose of a Monitoring Inspection is to gauge whether the school is taking effective action to work towards the targets set at the last Full Inspection. It is a routine inspection and not triggered by anything the school is doing or not doing. Our report will be published sometime in the next thirty days and I will contact you to let you know when this is available. Until this point the outcome of yesterday's inspection is confidential.

The grade a school has been given at a Full Inspection cannot be changed at a Monitoring Inspection. This can only be done at a Full Inspection. We can expect a full Inspection up to thirty months from February 2020, although timescales may differ because of COVID.

The Remote Inspection we had in March 2021 was not part of the normal cycle of Inspection and was purely to look at how we were providing education during Lockdown. We were very pleased with the outcome of this inspection and the report is available on the school website for those of you who have not seen it and are interested in reading it. Some of you may have also seen the very positive article about the inspection in the 'News and Star' several weeks ago. There is a link to it on our school Facebook page if you are interested.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who completed the Parent View questionnaires yesterday. We had a high response rate which was great to see.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Paisley
Headteacher