



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

21 September 2020

Dear Parents

This morning I arrived at school to find both our play equipment and gazebo have been vandalised over the weekend and the field area has been left in a dreadful state with litter strewn everywhere and one of the rubbish bins upended. We collected two black bin bags full of plastic bottles, crisp packets, sweet wrappers etc. We are devastated!

As many of you know, a huge amount of time and money has been invested both by ourselves and generous donors over the last few years to try and provide an attractive, appealing outdoor area for our children to both play and learn. The damage that has been done is likely to cost several thousand pounds to repair and replace. This is money that we simply do not have!

We are now faced with a decision about whether we need to further invest in CCTV equipment and security fencing. Both of these options will be very costly and this may detract from further facilities we hoped to provide for the children in the future. However, this is not the first time we have been faced with "cleaning up" after vandalism and we need to explore ways to prevent it happening again.

We are also having to explore the possibility of the field area being closed to the public and locked every evening. I am loath to do this, as I feel the field should be available for the community; however, we simply cannot carry on with this level of mindless destruction. I am also mindful of the fact that we are currently having our MUGA installed and we cannot risk damage being done to this facility which may put our pupils at risk or prevent them from using it for educational purposes.

If you saw or heard anything over the weekend, or if your children were about and have any information, please do get in touch. I have reported the matter to the police but without further evidence there is little they can do.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Paisley
Headteacher