



Appreciation Post!

Welcome back to the second part of our Spring Term and what better way to kick Spring off than a good refresh and Spring clean.

I hope you can all agree that no exception has been made here at St Michael's.

Through funding, donations and a whole lot of hard work and commitment, so much has been done so far, but we couldn't have done any of it without the help from others. This is an Appreciation Post to all those that have been involved so far.

Garden:

As you all know, Miss White managed to secure a grant from the Allerdale Community Development Team to start our garden and what a difference she has made already. There is no doubt that the garden will flourish all year round. Miss White continues to create new spaces and is always looking for new ideas and plants for the area and has lots of help from the children too. Thank you Miss White!

We would also love to thank Mr Andrew Gregory (Mrs Brown's Son-In-Law) for the stunning Mr McGregor and Peter Rabbit paintings. They fit in perfectly and shows how talented he is! Travis Perkins very kindly donated the yellow stones and slabs for the lovely path. The children were very fascinated watching the crane deliver them over the wall too!

Thank you to Ruby-Rose's Mam, Kelly for getting more donations of compost from our Aldi store! That's more local connections made.

Mrs Regan will be starting her Gardening Club with some of the Year 1 children tonight, so you can only begin to imagine what changes they will make and skills they will learn. We can't wait to see!





Community Pantry:

Miss Smith applied for our school to take part in fundraising with Asda and we won 3rd place and were awarded with a cheque for £300.00! Thank you very much Miss Smith for making this happen.

With that money, we have purchased our Community Pantry. The idea of the pantry is to pass the kindness on, so you may donate an item but see something that you may need - and so on. Everyone is welcome and all donations are appreciated, but please don't worry if you don't have anything to donate, you can still take what you may need. The pantry will be open in the morning and afternoon when children are being dropped off and collected.

A huge thank you to Lorna from St Michael's church and Margaret from the Mother's Union for their help in getting this started and donating lots of food to us. A group of children went to the Mother's Union with Mrs Reay and Miss White today as part of our well-being and connecting network and they came back with a bag of goodies each for the pantry, so that will be well stocked this afternoon! We are also liaising with other local stores to see if they would be able to donate much needed items. Some of the items needed include:

- Pasta
- Cereal
- Long-life milk
- Hygiene products
- Sanitary products
- Household cleaning products
- Tinned goods etc.



Railings:

We managed to secure another grant from the Allerdale Community Development Team for Road Safety Awareness and ensuring our children are safer on the roads. Part of this grant has been used to supply paint and labour to paint our railings on the main road of Station Road. Although there is already a zebra crossing there, you are all aware of how dangerous it can still be and the number of cars that still do not stop. By painting the railings, we have added more focus to the school as it really stands out in our bright yellow and green colours and hope that road users may pay more attention when seeing this.

We would like to thank Scott and his team at S&H Decorating for their fantastic work and cooperation in having this completed in such a small time frame.





KS1 Building:

Over the last 12 month or so, there has been extensive, ongoing work to the building, including roof work, plastering of walls etc. Since that has been completed, there has been a big focus on the interior of the school. The school hall and all of the classrooms in the KS1 building have had a lovely freshen up in neutral colours as this can provide the children with a more calming environment to learn in (with the exception of their lovely, colourful masterpieces that we display). Mrs Regan had the wonderful idea to give the hall a Village Hall theme with bunting across the ceiling and hessian around the notice boards which ties in beautifully to the community feel we love here at St Michael's. There is a definite change in atmosphere here and it feels so much more welcoming and cosy.

Thank you to Chris and the team at Roland Hill for their ongoing commitment to ensure the work is carried out to a high standard and battling on to get finished. We can't wait to see the Early Years side when that is done!



Tiny Teds:

It's finally happening! We are starting our Tiny Teds Little 2's provision. This has been a need for a very long time and it always pained us to turn people away when they asked if we provided this care, but as of September 2023, we will be up and running.

Mrs Regan has agreed for work to start in the Easter holidays to create a space within the current Nursery classroom to facilitate this. We will be running two sessions, one in the morning that we will fill first, then based on numbers, we will be running one in the afternoon, 3 hours per session. We have already got a banner up to advertise this but we have seen a huge impact just through word-of-mouth, so please, spread the word far and wide!

Thank you so much to our Governing Body that have had numerous meetings since Summer to ensure this would get up and running. The insight, knowledge and encouragement has been invaluable.





We would like you to join us in thanking Mrs Regan, as without her hard work, commitment and dedication to this school, some of this may not have been possible. She ensures that your voice is heard and will always listen and, as with all the staff here at St Michael's, your children are our utmost priority and we will continue to do all we can to ensure they have the best possible start here with us.

Last, but certainly not least, we would love to thank, YOU, our families, for always making sure that your children are here and trying their best, communicating with us when needed and valuing the hard work they put in and the support you give when they are at home. Thank you for all the donations you have provided us with, from spare uniform, toys, money for fundraising, food.....the list goes on and on. Our hearts are full to the brim and we are so proud of all of our little ones who make St Michael's the best place to be!

TOGETHER WE GROW!