

## Newsletter – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It has been so lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week; the children all look so smart in their uniforms and have got straight back into learning in school with no problems at all. We are all very proud of them!

### Queen Elizabeth

This is not the way I had ever imagined I would start the first newsletter of the term, and the usual excitement around the start of the new school year is inevitably overshadowed by the news of our longest reigning monarch's passing. We have taken time in collective worship this morning to talk as a school about the service and love the Queen showed for people not only in the UK and the Commonwealth but across the entire world, and the children had some very thoughtful reflections on the qualities and values Queen Elizabeth showed in all that she did.



As a school, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the Royal Family, after the passing of Queen Elizabeth yesterday afternoon. The children have had the opportunity to reflect this afternoon on her life-long service to our country, the commonwealth and as head of the Church of England.

### Acorns Classroom Refurbishment

As you will all know and will probably have seen, we now have a completely refurbished, bright and brilliant classroom for EYFS and KS1 to learn in. The walls have been painted, the flooring has been replaced and we have brand new purpose-built early years and KS1 furniture, built and arranged specifically to maximise learning and learning through play. Last term, we had the help of Early Excellence who helped us to plan the best possible use of space for our children and we are now very excited and proud to say that the room is finished and is already a much-improved space. The children are proud to show off each of the areas, especially those in charge of each area who have a special lanyard to show what their job is! In the next few weeks, there will be an opportunity to visit and see our new space and for the children to show off how they use it. Miss Wilson and Mrs Fennell even mentioned scones, so I am very much looking forward to it! We will let you know the date and time soon.



### Books for Ghana

Last term, we reorganised our library and reading resources and realised we had a lot of spare books that were in good condition but that we no longer used in school. Mrs Fennell made a link with a non-profit making charity called Pass it on Trust Uganda, and we were able to send the books to Shammah and Good Hope Schools there. We were very excited over the summer to see their Facebook post! It said:

*"Heartfelt thanks goes to St Michael's CE Primary School Bothel Cumbria. This number of books will increase access to reading within these schools and they will be treasured and loved by the children. Schools empowering schools. Thank you!"*



### Reading at home

Your children will either already have a new reading record and reading book or will be bringing it home at the start of next week. Don't forget to write in your child's reading record (or get them to do it themselves if they are in KS2 and you would like them too!) each time they read, as they are still collecting stickers on their reading bookmarks to contribute to their reading certificates.

The way we record reading and listening to readers has changed a little in years Reception to year 2, so you may not see as much written by teachers as we are reading each day with the whole group in Read Write Inc sessions and whole class reading lessons. We really value reading at St Michael's, so try to hear your child read as much as possible at home too, as well as sharing stories with them.

### Ordering lunches

Please remember to order your child's school lunch by Thursday lunchtime each week for the week ahead. We really need you to do this each week so that we can send our order to Beacon Hill School who provide our lunches. We understand there were some teething-problems with ParentPay in the first few days of this term, but we think they are all now resolved and you should be able to book lunches if you have registered. However, if you are still having problems and need some help, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

### Attendance and Holidays in term time

We would like to remind you that holidays during term time are not authorised unless in the most exceptional of cases, and that your child's attendance in school is vital. I will be sending out another separate letter reminding everyone of the importance of this in the next week and to explain our school and the Local Authority's protocols and procedures for any persistent low attendance.

### Dates for your diaries so far:

#### (More details and dates will follow)

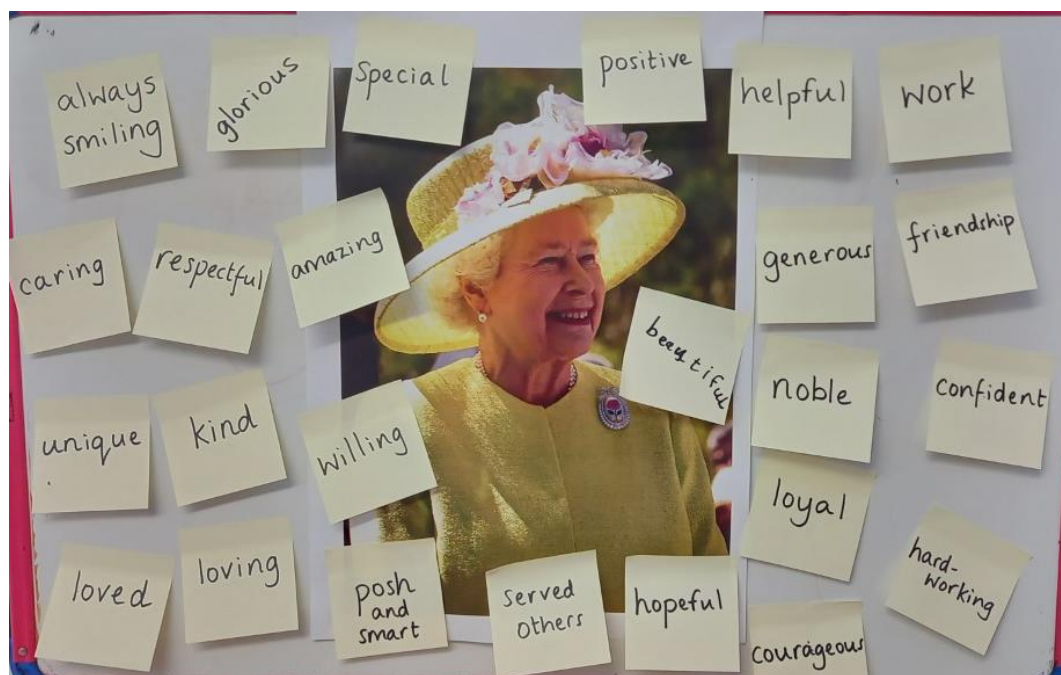
**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September (time TBC)** – Reception and Year 1 phonics meeting

**19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September** – KS2 swimming each afternoon

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October** – Flu vaccinations

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October** – School closes for half term at 3:30pm (after school club until 5:30pm)

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – School reopens for second half of Autumn term



*Some of the words that our children felt described the Queen in our Collective Worship this morning.*

