Tuesday 10th October 2017

Dear Parents

I would like to begin by saying a huge thank you to all our parents who have supported activities taking place this term including: swimming, Good Work assembly, forest schools, trips, our class Drop-ins and two sporting tournaments. Particular thanks for all your generous donations to our Harvest service at St. John’s which was very well attended. We provided a plentiful display of groceries at the front of church that have now been delivered to Kendal Food Bank. We are looking forward to seeing you in school next week for our parent-teacher appointments. If you have not yet returned your request; please do so as soon as possible so that we can inform you of your appointment with plenty of notice.

**Arriving at and Leaving School**

Please may I politely request that parents transporting their child/children to school by car; park responsibly; particularly considering pedestrian viewpoints up and down Levens Lane. Whilst I understand that parking is difficult on this stretch of road, we are becoming concerned about visibility for pedestrians trying to cross this busy road safely.

I would also like to remind parents that the school front door opens at 8.35am and that pupils of any age should not be in the playground unsupervised before this time. Recently, we have noticed an increasing number of our pupils arriving at school incredibly early and playing on the playing fields. If you are dropping children at the gates; this should not be before 8.35am please.

**Dates for Your Diary**

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| 9.10.17 | Scafell Cyclewise Training all week |
| 13.10.17 | Pupil Parliament at Netherwood Hotel |
|  | Come and Play Bowfell Class 2pm |
| 17.10.17 | Parent-Teacher Appointments |
| 18.10.17 | Dallam Netball High5 competition |
| 20.10.17 | School Closed for Staff Training |
| 30.10.17 | School re-opens after half-term break |
| 1.11.17 | KS2 Swimming |
| 2.11.17 | Curriculum Open Morning for Parents |
|  | Tag Rugby Club 3.15pm-4.15pm |
| 3.11.17 | Good Work Assembly 2.30pm All welcome |
|  | School Council Disco: KS1 5.45-6.45pm KS2 7-8pm |
| 10.11.17 | Remembrance Service at St. John’s 10.45am |
| 11.11.17 | FOLS Dance at Park House Farm Barn 7.30pm until late |
| 15.11.17 | Dallam Tag Rugby Years 3&4 |
| 17.11.17 | Children in Need Day |
|  | Kendal Mountain Festival Years 5&6 |
| 24.11.17 | Christmas Fair |

Further events will be added during the course of the term so please also check the interactive website calendar. When necessary, letters are sent with further information and permission reply slips. Please look in your child’s bag to ensure you are getting information when it is sent out to you.

**Attendance:**

Our attendance at the start of this academic year is very high and just above our annual target of 98%. Thank you to everyone for ensuring unnecessary absence is avoided as much as possible. Certificates and prizes will be awarded as usual at the end of the autumn term in recognition of 100% attendance.

**YoYo Charges:**

Unfortunately, we will be introducing a cancellation charge when we are informed of changes to YoYo reservations on the same day. Staffing levels at YoYo are organised to ensure pupil-adult ratios are within statutory requirements, but on occasions, last minute changes have meant that additional staff have been arranged but not required. A cancellation fee of £5 will be added to YoYo bills when children do not take up their reserved place at YoYo and school has not been informed at least one day in advance. This new fee will take effect from Monday 30th September.

**Curriculum Open Morning:**

This term we are offering another opportunity for you to come into school to see what happens on a typical morning. The event will begin with a brief talk from me in the hall at 9am; before giving you freedom to tour each of the classrooms to see teaching and learning in action. It is a fantastic opportunity to see your own child in class; but also many of our parents at our previous open morning commented on how much they learnt about the curriculum and learning by visiting other classrooms. No need to let us know in advance; just arrive on the morning; but please be prompt as visitors arriving after 9am will not be able to attend on this occasion. The event will end at 10am, when the children will come together in the hall for assembly as usual.

**Christmas Holidays:**

You may have noticed from our website that school closes for the Christmas period on Friday 15th December at 2pm and reopens on Wednesday 3rd January. Please note that this is different to dates published on the Cumbria County Council website.

**Band in the Barn:**

If you haven’t already, please buy a ticket for the party organized by FOLS on Saturday 11th November in aid of developing our outdoor learning space for our youngest pupils to enjoy. Tickets, on sale at Levens Village Shop and directly from Mrs Duncan, cost just £10; include a live band, dancing and pie and peas supper. Thank you to Park House Farm for hosting our party free of charge. There is a licensed bar and a raffle on the night. Please support it if you can.

**Parentview:**

As you may already be aware, an Ofsted Inspection at Levens School is now due and a very important part of the inspection involves seeking the views of our parents. Please may I encourage you to register at **parentview.ofsted.gov.uk** and spend just a few minutes answering 12 multiple choice questions. There is a link to this site on the ‘parents’ section of our school website.

We look forward to welcoming you into school for our parent-teacher appointments next week.

With my very best wishes

Jane Farraday