



LEVENS CE SCHOOL
Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of the spring term. We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and a happy start to the new year. As always, every child entered school this morning with cheerful enthusiasm; we have enjoyed a fantastic first day back.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to the new families joining us this term. We have three more nursery children joining Bowfell over the next few days.

Portacabin:

During the Christmas holidays significant work was done in the playground to prepare for the arrival of our temporary dining facilities. It will take contractors several days to carry out further work after the cabin has been craned into the playground on Thursday. **Please note that parking along Levens Lane on Thursday morning will be restricted as cones will clear the area required for the arrival of the crane.**

Please be very reassured that we have put all necessary measures in place to ensure the safety of our children during the installation of the portacabin and it's use going forward. During this morning's assembly the children were given clear expectations about their responsibilities to keep safe whilst the portacabin is installed and over the next few months as we use the portacabin and play around it; they are also looking forward to being able to watch the crane 'drop' the cabin and I understand both junior classes will be using this experience as a stimulus for writing this week.

Going forward, we have plans to ensure the children continue to have fun at lunchtimes by offering more clubs and activities, inside as well as on the playground, whilst the space in our grounds restrict play.

Staff Update:

Some of you may have seen that Mrs Greenall has returned to teach in Bowfell this week and we have been very excited to welcome Mrs Duckworth who started her new role today; leading our year 2 pupils four mornings a week.

Unfortunately, I am sorry to have to inform you that Miss Addy remains unwell and I continue to be unclear as to when we may expect that she will be fit to resume her role. We continue to wish her well and hope that she might be able to return to school soon. I would like to take this opportunity to advise the arrangements that have already been planned going forward. After this week, Mrs Greenall is unable to continue working with us at Levens; as she has secured a full-time post at St. Martin and St. Mary CE School in Windermere beginning later this month. I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Greenall for her dedication, enthusiasm and relentless hard work giving the children memorable and worthwhile learning experiences every day. Her warm and kind, caring character have ensured the children have felt safe and happy in school. Whilst we are very sorry that she cannot continue with us; we wish her success in her new role.

I am very pleased however, to advise that we have managed to secure Mrs Helen Haslam to replace Mrs Greenall. Mrs Haslam is an early years and KS1 specialist, with several years of experience and a passion for teaching, who will be taking the lead in Bowfell from next week. She visited school in the final week of the autumn term and will be in school again on Friday of this week to meet the children and undergo meetings with staff in school so that she is prepared to begin her role next Monday (8th January).

Please may I take this opportunity to reassure our Bowfell parents that it is my priority to ensure that everything possible is being done to secure a smooth transition as teaching arrangements alter; and that the



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



children continue to feel happy, safe and secure; enjoy their learning and make good progress as Miss Addy's absence continues.

The Brewery Dance Platform:

Children rehearsing with Miss Nic every Monday lunchtime are busy preparing for their performance on the evening of **Thursday 22nd March** alongside other local schools at this annual dance festival. Tickets are now on sale from the Brewery Box Office 01539725133 and are priced at £5/£6. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible as I understand tickets sell out very quickly for this very popular event. Further information about the arrangements for the day and evening will follow soon.

Diary Dates:

Thursday 4 th January	Portacabin arrives
Monday 8 th January	Gym club starts 3-4pm*
Tuesday 9 th January	Football club starts 3.15-4.15pm*
Wednesday 10 th January	Running Club starts 3.15-4pm*
Monday 15 th January	Closing date for Reception applications
Friday 19 th January	Good Work assembly 2.30pm all welcome
Monday 22 nd January	Toddler Taster Cooking 9.30-10.30am
Wednesday 24 th January	Dallam Cross county Event – Afternoon fixture
Thursday 1 st February	Scafell trip to Tullie House, Carlisle (letter to follow)
Friday 9 th February	School closes for half-term 3pm
Monday 19 th February	School reopens

Please note the above finish times marked with an asterisk. I would be grateful if everyone could please adhere to these collection times so that staff are not being unduly detained at the end of sessions.

School Website:

Please take a look at the school blog on our website and keep in touch with events taking place in school by using the calendar as further dates will be added as we progress through the term. Each class also has its own page and these will be updated this week with information about events and the curriculum for this term.

Christian Value for This Term

Our Christian Value this term is 'Thankfulness' and we look forward to exploring this with the children, mindful that in our beautiful environment and comfortable and loving lives, we do indeed have a lot to be thankful for. Please can you find time to discuss this with your children from a home and family perspective so that these discussions can also contribute to our discussions and reflections in school.

Attendance:

Whilst our attendance data for the autumn term is extremely positive and we were very excited to award 37 pupils 100% certificates and prizes for their attendance in a special assembly in the final week; previous data suggests that it is during the spring term when unnecessary absence is most likely to occur. Please may I kindly remind you that the local authority and school governors share a commitment to ensuring attendance at school is high and that holidays in term time should always be avoided. Requests for absence should only be made where the circumstances are exceptional; this does not include any holiday that can be scheduled out of term time. For more information our 'Attendance Policy' can be found on our website and in school's entrance hall.

Ofsted Inspection Report:

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the report has now been received and will be shared with parents by the end of this week.

With my very best wishes

Jane Farraday