



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

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

Church Road, Levens, Kendal LA8 8PU 015395 60694 office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk
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Dear Parents,

There has been lots to celebrate this term; particularly our sporting success. Well done to all the runners who took part in the Dallam and Elleray cross-country events. Many secured top three places and our Under-10 boys beat 28 other schools to win the trophy for Levens!! This is an absolute endorsement of what good preparation for any challenge in life can lead to and we are all incredibly proud.

Last week, Miss Nic's Dance Club entertained a huge audience with a sequence of 3 dances based on Hercules – our participation in the Brewery Arts Centre Dance Platform is now the beginning of a Levens tradition. They overcame their nerves to put on a professional, energetic and carefully synchronised performance – a magical moment for every one watching.

Only yesterday, pupils from Skiddaw took part in Dallam's Hockey Tournament. The overwhelming majority of matches were won by our two teams; one securing second place out of 14 teams; successfully taking them through to the next round.

Our Pupil Parliamentarians enjoyed their second event of the year presenting information to other schools on the issue of 'Homelessness' and met Tim Farron to learn more about the role of being an MP.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Sports Relief Fundraising last week; including thanks to our School Council who organised fun and fitness each lunchtime last week. We enjoyed seeing everyone in their sporting outfits ranging from football kits, karate outfits, swimming costumes, ballet shoes and cricket whites; raising £71 in the process.

Thank you to FOLS:

Huge thanks to everyone who has supported or helped organise the fundraising events that have taken place over the last year. We are so grateful to have a very committed parent body who are keen to raise funds to improve the experiences and resources available to our pupils now and in the future. So far this year, FOLS have paid for the coach to the theatre at Christmas, subsidised Skiddaw's trip to Vindolanda, paid for Scafell's 'BrightSparks' Electricity enrichment day and bought new reading books for children in Bowfell. FOLS have also raised money specifically to develop Bowfell's outdoor area and develop new static playground equipment.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



A coffee morning is scheduled to take place at the Institute on Saturday 12th May between 10-12pm. Please let us know if you can help on the day and of course it would be lovely to have our families supporting this event.

Jo Duncan is running in the Spring Lakeland 23mile Run and 5300ft of ascent around Ambleside and surrounding areas on Sunday 15th April along with 3 former pupils to raise money for school. We are seeking sponsorship from as many people as possible. If you think you can support her run, please make your pledge on the sponsor form located in the school entrance hall. Any small amount will be very gratefully received.

New Dining Facilities:

I write with very exciting news about plans to demolish our school kitchen and build a new fully-functional kitchen and dining area in this space. Proposals for a new build have now been submitted to planning and can also be viewed in our playground noticeboard, as well as live on the SLDC planning website.

The project is due for completion by the end of October 2018; when the portacabin will be removed from the school site. The new plans do not infringe on playground space but include changes to the frontage of the zen cabin and the relocation of the Playdale trail to another part of the playground. Further enhancements to our outdoor play equipment will be installed at the same time; improving our facilities for playtimes and lunchtimes all year round.

Using School facilities after school:

As the weather improves and families use the park more frequently after school, please can I ask parents not to bring children back into school to use our toilet facilities. Mrs Coker officially finishes her role in the school office at 3pm and staff are often located in other parts of the building and therefore unable to open the door or supervise visitors to the toilet. We would therefore like to encourage families to visit the toilet before leaving the school grounds if you intend to stay for a play on the playing fields. Thank you for your understanding.

Health and Safety Audit:

An inspection of all aspects of Health and Safety in school took place at the end of February and I am pleased to inform parents that the inspection went extremely well and school's approach to H+S being evaluated at a 91% pass rate with 'a good standard of written safety management coupled with some good health and safety practices'.

School Trips:

During the summer term, each class will be able to enjoy activities off-site to enrich learning and provide memorable experiences. I know that many parents are particularly supportive of our outdoor adventure trips that provide exciting experiences; offer challenge and get us out into our wonderful local environment. We try to offer a balance of excursions across the year; and have been very grateful to receive some funding from FOLS to support them. Funding from school's sport allocation has also been provided to subsidise experiences this year.

Of course these trips also rely on financial contributions from parents as we are not in a position to fund these from the school budget. The contributions that we request are of course voluntary; however, when there is a significant shortfall between the cost of

the trip and the contributions from parents, trips become financially unviable and therefore at risk of cancellation.

We would be really grateful if parents could support these valuable experiences; if you are struggling to make a contribution; please talk to us so that we can try to support you if we can, or can discuss a phased payment plan. We are really reluctant to withdraw these opportunities from our calendar and believe they are an extremely valuable part of every child's primary school experiences.

Thank you for your understanding.

Easter Services and Activities at St. John's:

Good Friday walk: meet at Levens Village shop at 10am for a walk around the village or up onto Sizergh Fell (weather dependent) and return to St. John's at 11am for seasonal refreshments and craft. Everyone welcome.

Easter Sunday: St. John's Family Service and Holy Communion for Easter including a variety of activities for children of all ages. Please come along to enjoy the fun!

Attendance:

This week you will have already received your child/children's attendance report for the year so far and I would like to inform you of some changes that are now being implemented by Cumbria County Council. The School Absence Enforcement Policy has just been revised by CCC introducing more rigorous measures to raise standards of attendance across Cumbria and bring attendance at all Cumbrian schools in line with National Standards. If a child's absence falls below 90%; school is under a statutory obligation to work with parents to improve attendance; but if there is no sustained improvement, school are required to submit a referral to Children and Family Services following the Attendance Protocol. In addition to this, CCC have introduced further measures to reduce unauthorised absences which now carry the risk of a prosecution under section 444 or 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to avoid all unnecessary absence from school; and particularly holidays in term time.

Nursery Consultation:

Following our consultation, we are hoping to extend our provision to include one full day a week; as well as the five mornings we currently offer. More information about our nursery and class structure will follow as soon as these are agreed by governors in the summer term.

School Grounds and Playing Fields:

Following reports of local youths playing on the Bowling Green this week; please may I ask all our parents to support our local community by reporting anyone acting irresponsibly; particularly if you can identify the culprits. Thank you.

Website:

Please take a look at our school blog on the website – it is full of lots of photos and information about the fun and worthwhile learning opportunities experienced by pupils across the school this term.

Bowfell Clean Up:

We are looking for volunteers to help empty the four beds in Bowfell's Outdoor Area as part of the plans to improve the resources and develop our use of the area. We will be able to empty the contents of the beds into our skip located at the front of school and begin to prepare two to become planting areas for the children; one to be a new sand-pit and the other to house a bug hotel and logs! We will begin work at 2pm on the afternoon of Friday 11th May and promise refreshments to keep our energy levels up. Please let us know if you can come along to help just for an hour or until the predicted finishing time of 4.30pm. We would really appreciate all the help we can get.

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 28 th March	Y34 Hockey Tournament
Thursday 29 th March	School closes for Easter holidays at 2pm
Monday 16 th April	School re-opens for summer term 8.35am
Friday 20 th April	Easter Service at St. John's Church 2pm. All welcome.
Monday 24 th April	Y6 Mock SATS week
Tuesday 25 th April	Ghyll Scrambling - Skiddaw
Tuesday 25 th April	Lockerbie Residential Meeting for parents and children Y56
Monday 30 th April	Reading Meeting and workshops for parents and children 6pm
Wednesday 2 nd May	Dallam Primary Rounders Y34
Friday 4 th May	Good Work Assembly 2.30pm all welcome
Monday 7 th May	School closed for Bank Holiday
Thursday 10 th May	Vindolanda Trip - Skiddaw
Friday 11 th May	Bowfell Outdoor Area Clean-up 2-4.30pm
Saturday 12 th May	FOLS Coffee Morning at Levens Institute 10-12noon
Monday 14 th May	Y6 SATS week
Monday 14 th May	Toddler Taster Session - Gardening
Wednesday 23 rd May	Dallam Primary Cup Challenge Dallam Y56
Thursday 24 th May	Experience Pentecost
Friday 25 th May	Good Work Assembly 2.30pm
Friday 25 th May	School closes for halfterm 3pm
Monday 4 th June	School re-opens 8.35am

On behalf of everyone at Levens, may I wish everyone at wonderful Easter Break and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 16th April.

With my very best wishes,

Jane Farraday