

Levens CE School



Welcome to Reception
2018

Dear Parents,

On behalf of everyone within our school community, may I welcome you to our school.

Levens CE School is a happy, safe, secure place to grow and learn, where we enjoy the learning experiences each new day brings. Our children are supported and nurtured through our distinctively Christian ethos and shared Christian values.

It is our aim to develop a life-long love of learning by preparing our children for their future in a diverse and ever-changing world. We provide wide-ranging opportunities for every child enabling them to be creative; develop their personal skills; become responsible, confident and considerate; taking pride in all that they do.

Starting school is an extremely exciting time for our children and marks a significant milestone in your child's development. Here at Levens, we endeavour to ensure your child's first experiences of school are positive so that we can lay the foundations for future learning in an environment where your child feels excited about coming to school each day, feels safe and quickly builds healthy new relationships with adults as well as their peers.

With a focus on ensuring high standards in reading, writing and maths; we deliver a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to the 21st century. Our pupils develop the necessary skills to communicate with others; to be able to form and maintain positive relationships; to recognise and celebrate their achievements and have pride in what they do. Our Christian ethos pervades every aspect of school; supporting the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all pupils.

Relationships are at the heart of the school and our community. Our polite, responsible and enthusiastic pupils are inspired by committed, hardworking staff and school is very well supported by a dedicated governing body. Our parents are another very important part of the team; supporting their child's learning and the work of school in so many ways.

We are passionate about our school and our pupils; striving to empower their young minds to follow their dreams, be happy and embrace challenge.

This brochure just gives a flavour of what Levens has to offer. For further information why not take a look at our website at www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk or call the school office to arrange a visit to school. I would welcome the opportunity to take you on a tour of our school.



Mrs Farraday

Starting Reception

During the summer term prior to your child starting Reception, there are many opportunities to be involved in school and for your child to begin their introduction to school. A personal invitation pack will provide a timetable of events including: Toddler Taster sessions, a Teddy Bear's Picnic, Home Visit arrangements, Classroom sessions and whole school events like our School Sports Day. This will enable your child to meet the staff in school; be introduced to the school and classroom environment; and begin to learn routines and school expectations.

If your child has attended alternative nursery provision to Levens, staff in school prepare for your child's start by visiting your child in their nursery setting and meeting with your child's key worker.

September 2018

The autumn term begins for all children on Tuesday 4th September. The Reception children will start school through a staggered induction period:

- Tuesday 4th September and Wednesday 5th September - Mornings only 8.45am - 11.45am
- Thursday 6th September Morning and lunch session until 12.30pm
- Friday 7th September Full-day until 3pm



The children will then continue to attend school all day every day from the week commencing Monday 10th September 2018.

Our Classroom

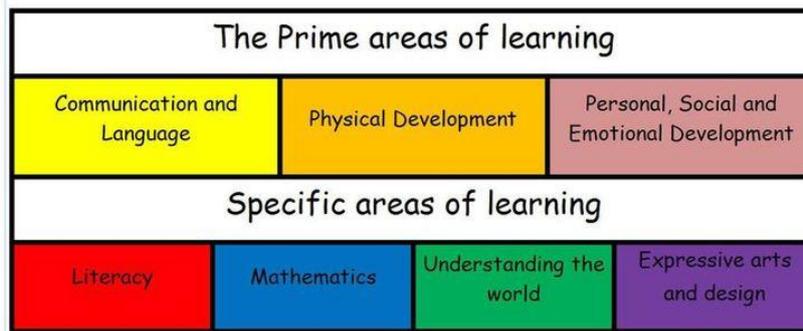
The classroom is organised into different areas of learning which are directly linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. There are opportunities for mark making and writing, practical, hands on maths, creative and malleable areas as well as a role-play and a reading area. We also have a set of iPads which the children are able to use in order to engage in age-appropriate software. In addition to this, the classroom also has challenge areas which are updated each week in order to extend the children's learning and allow them to explore and problem solve independently. These areas help to develop physical development, reading, writing and maths. We aim to deliver a balance of teacher led activities which run alongside independent learning opportunities within the classroom.

We also have a beautiful outdoor area where the children have 'free flow' access at times during the day. The outdoors plays an important role in developing children's physical, creative and problem solving skills.

The Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework sets the standard for development, learning and care for all children from birth to the end of the Reception year. Activities in the Reception year will be planned within the areas of learning outlined within the Framework and around the interests and needs of individual children to develop their skills and understanding by learning through the playful spirit within our Foundation Stage.

The curriculum is divided into Prime and Specific areas of learning:



The children are assessed against the Development Matters objectives which are split into age bands from birth to 5 years of age. We continually assess where the children are currently working within the age bands in order to plan meaningful learning opportunities and next steps for their development.

The children's learning is captured in two ways within our Foundation Stage:

- An online learning journey - 'Tapestry' which can be viewed and added to by both staff and parents (details will be sent out to parents at the beginning of September).
- Learning Journey Scrapbooks which display a range of information including teacher observations, written work and child-initiated work.

There are opportunities throughout the year when you will be able to formally meet with the class teacher, see your child's work and discuss their learning and progress. During the summer term, you will receive your child's End of Year Report. Should you need to discuss your child's learning and development at any other times in the year, then please let us know; we pride ourselves on being approachable, supportive and helpful.

Children with Special Education Needs

At Levens CE School we provide equality for all children, including those identified as having any additional needs. Our setting, our curriculum and the expertise of our staff ensures all pupils are able to breakdown any barriers to learning in order to access a rich and broad curriculum developing skills and their understanding to make good progress.

Our Ofsted Inspection November 2017 highlighted parents support for school and particularly, how 'teachers use their 'special skills' to draw out highly positive attitudes from their children towards their school work.'

More information about provision for children with SEND can be found on our website or by talking to our SEND lead, Mrs Sarabeth Pearce or the headteacher, Mrs Jane Farraday.

The School Day

8.35am	School opens
8.45am	Registration
10.20am	Break time (20minutes)
11.45am	Lunchtime
1pm	Afternoon session begins
3pm	School day ends

Arriving in school in the mornings



Each morning the children in Reception will be encouraged to develop their independence through a range of activities including: choosing their lunch, self-registering and beginning a morning task independently. These routines ensure the children are able to enter a calm and quiet classroom, can settle quickly setting the right tone for learning throughout the rest of the day. Whilst we pride ourselves on our open-door policy and welcome parents into the classroom every morning to see their child/children are settled before leaving, we do request that parents leave the classroom as soon as you can see your child is happy and settled; and no later than 8.45am when the registration bell rings.

Infant Fruit and Snack

All children are given a piece of fruit or vegetable daily and a carton of milk for a morning snack as part of our healthy eating plan. The fruit is free for all infant children. Milk is free for your child until the term after their 5th birthday.

This time is used for socialising with all of Bowfell Class; the children are encouraged to try new foods, and learn from each other. The adults join in, modelling behaviour and taking time to chat to the children and reflect on their learning experiences.

Assemblies and Collective Worship

Each day, all the children in school engage in worship or assembly time in our school hall. These special times together as a school enable us to explore our Christian Values, hear Bible Stories, celebrate our achievements and learn more about our world.

On Friday afternoons, we have a very special Celebration Assembly when each class will share some of their learning for the week and when we read out names of children who have been mentioned in our Golden Book for something incredible. Parents are invited to these assemblies on regular occasions through our online website calendar, through newsletters and via text messages.

Playtimes

The children will enjoy a 20minute break time each morning on the playground with all the other children in school. There are always activities, games equipment, the trim-trail and plenty of other children to have fun with. Lunchtime play is also very active; and on many days there are clubs running indoors that Reception children can access including: Hama Bead club, Jam club, Colouring Club and Lego Club.

Lunchtimes

The lunchtime session begins at 11.45am until 1pm. During this time your child will be able to enjoy a free infant school meal. Daily menus are available to view in the school entrance hall. Your child will make their selection each day as they come into school. Within a few weeks we would expect that the children will be able to do this independently as part of their morning routine. The children will enjoy their lunch in our portacabin until our new dining hall is complete. Here they will be supported in collecting and eating their lunch by our super lunchtime staff. They are on-hand to ensure the children get enough to eat and drink; learn the routines of our dining hall systems; and enjoy their lunchtime experience.

Hometime

School ends at 3pm each day. Please collect your child outside the front door in the playground where a member of the Bowfell team will meet you. This is an opportunity to talk to staff and sometimes a member of staff may wish to talk to you briefly to share something from the day or pass on important information. If someone different is collecting your child please ensure we have been informed, as keeping your child safe is our top priority.

Safeguarding

'Safeguarding pupils is a high priority and a strength of the school. You and the staff have established a culture of vigilance in the school. You know your community and pupils well, and all staff understand that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.' Ofsted November 2017

At our school, the health and safety of all children is of paramount importance. Parents send their children to school each day with the expectation that school provides a secure environment in which their children can flourish.

The Designated Teacher in Charge of Safeguarding is Mrs Farraday. In her absence, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Wadey. Should you have any concerns about the welfare of any children in school, please let us know immediately.

At Levens CE School we will ensure everything possible is undertaken to safeguard the welfare of all children in our care. If the school has a reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to harm, ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff will take appropriate action.

Your Child's Health

Sometimes children need prescription medication. If this is the case, please speak to Mrs Coker in the office who will be able to help you complete the necessary paperwork for us to administer medicine in school. If your child is asthmatic and needs an inhaler in school during the day, please ensure we are promptly informed.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform us by either telephoning the office between 8.30am and 8.50am or emailing Mrs Coker at office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk on the first day of your child's absence.

During your child's first year at school the Schools' Medical service will carry out various checks on your child's growth and development. You will be informed of these checks in advance.

If your child becomes unwell at school or has an accident that may require hospital treatment we would contact you immediately using the contact details you have provided for school.

Children who have received any first aid in school will receive a 'First Aid' or 'Head Bump' letter informing parents of details.

Communication with School

At Levens CE School, we understand that developing and maintaining strong links with parents is essential to our children's learning and development throughout their education. Therefore, it is essential that you feel welcome in school and able to talk to us or ask us questions as they arise.

There are several ways to keep in touch with what's happening in school. Our website includes a 'blog' where your child's experiences in and out of school are posted regularly, alongside photographs. The website also has a calendar providing early notification of forthcoming events.

Newsletters are distributed at least once every month and are also published on the website. Other letters are also sent home via book bags for specific events or information, sometimes requiring reply slips and payments. These can be placed in the pink box positioned in Bowfell's classroom on the shelf by the door.

In the pupils section of the website, Bowfell has its own class page with up to date information about curriculum and learning.

Information is also shared via the school text alert system. This is invaluable for last minute changes to arrangements and useful reminders.

Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible.

School Uniform

Although not compulsory, all children at Levens CE School wear school uniform. Our uniform is a royal blue sweatshirt, fleece or cardigan with a white polo shirt. Both girls and boys may choose to wear grey trousers. Girls may wear a grey skirt, pinafore dress or blue gingham dress. All pupils should wear black shoes and bring an appropriate school coat every day.

Our school PE kit consists of black shorts, a pale blue t-shirt with the school logo, a pale blue hooded top with the school logo and black PE pumps. Please also include a pair of socks. For PE outside the children may wear jogging bottoms in colder weather.

Your child will also need a book bag.

School policy on uniform does not permit the wearing of jewellery or nail polish. Long hair should always be tied up.

All items are obtainable from our suppliers, Coniston Corporate via the link on the school website where a full order form is available. Collated items are then received in school and sent home as soon as possible. Payment is made online and we recommend that you please order in good time.

The table below gives current costs for our most popular items:-

Sweatshirt	£9.75
Cardigan	£10.50
Fleece Jacket	£13.25
Book Bag	£5.00

Please ensure that all items are clearly named.

Contact Information

Address: Levens CE School
Church Road
Levens
Kendal
Cumbria
LA8 8PU

Telephone: 015395 60694

Email: office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk

Website: www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk