



# LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year and I would like to extend a special welcome to all our new families and pupils who have joined us today or are due to start in Nursery next week. We trust you have enjoyed a good summer break and been able to relax and catch up with family and friends. It has been lovely to hear everyone's news and stories of the summer holidays.

## **Staff News**

We are all extremely happy to be welcoming back Mrs Haslam who has taken over the role of Bowfell Classteacher from Miss Addy. Mrs Duckworth has also returned to Levens and will share the role of Scafell Classteacher with myself. I can now inform you that Miss Addy has decided to move on and will not be returning to her role at Levens. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her success and happiness in all her future ventures.

## **KS2 Results July 2018**

We are now pleased to be able to share with you our excellent pupil outcomes at Key Stage Two compared to national results. At Levens CE School, 80% of pupils reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined; compared to just 64% nationally. A subject breakdown is provided below:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Levens CE School</b>	<b>National</b>
Reading	80%*	75%
Writing	90%*	78%
Maths	90%*	76%
SPaG	100%	78%

We are also pleased to report that we had a significant number of children exceeding expected levels in these areas. 50% in reading, 40% in writing and 10% in maths achieved greater depth.

\*Unfortunately one pupil was only in school to complete the SPaG test but is included in all other results. This immediately puts our starting percentage at 90%.

## **School Site and Safety**

As you will have seen today, the construction of the new dining hall has not progressed as we had anticipated due to unforeseeable complications. The demolition is likely to take place in the next few weeks and the new facilities are already being constructed off-site, however it is expected that we will now not be able to move into our new building until nearer the end of the year. I will keep parents fully informed of any news as soon as I am able.



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



In the meantime, we have made some changes to procedures and policies ensuring everyone remains safe in and around school. These include:

- The fire evacuation assembly point being moved temporarily to the grassy area in the playing fields;
- Revisions to fire evacuation procedures;
- Use of the playing fields area at playtimes and lunchtimes when possible; away from the construction area;
- Changes to access to school site via playing fields from Levens Lane for parents, pupils and visitors to school until further notice.

Please be reassured that the safety of everyone in school is paramount and will not be compromised during this time. In assembly this morning the children were informed of new procedures and expectations to keep themselves and others safe in school; we will be reinforcing these messages regularly.

### **Classroom Drop-Ins**

We would like to invite you and your children into school on Friday 14th September, immediately after our first Celebration Assembly of the year, between 3pm and 3.45pm to look around school and visit your child/children's new classroom. You will have an opportunity to talk informally with staff. If you would like a private conversation with your child's classteacher about a specific issue please make a separate appointment for another time. Parent-Teacher Interviews take place just before half-term on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October but we appreciate that if necessary you may want to talk to us privately before then.

### **Christian Value:**

This term's Christian Value is PEACE. The Hebrew term for Peace is Shalom and has a deep and complex meaning encompassing much more than simply the absence of war or hostility. It includes ideas of healing, health, wholeness and wellbeing that are so relevant to us all in today's modern society. As always, we will explore our value in our assemblies and through our curriculum in a range of contexts.

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

### **Uniform**

The children look incredibly smart at the start of the school year and thank you for supporting our school uniform policy. Please can I remind parents that all uniform needs to be clearly named so that lost/misplaced items can be reunited with their owners quickly. PE kit should be in school everyday.

Our uniform suppliers do not deliver during school holiday times so if you have made an order over the summer there will be an inevitable delay but we will get it out to you as soon as it arrives in school.

Stud earrings are permitted but should be removed by the wearer for PE lessons; including swimming. Nail polish should not be worn in school and long hair should always be tied up.

### **Arriving in school in the mornings:**

Please may I take this opportunity to remind parents about morning routines and procedures. The front door of school opens at 8.35am when children and their parents are able to enter their classrooms to get ready for the school day; which may include ordering their school lunch. The children will have a morning task to start independently. We encourage even our youngest pupils to develop some organisation skills by learning to do

this by themselves. Our mornings are organised carefully to settle the children; foster a calm start to the day; and set the right tone for learning. Please help us to maintain this positive, quiet environment by leaving the classroom as soon as you see your child is settled and not waiting until the school bell rings at 8.45am.

### **YOYO Club**

Over this term our YoYo team will be reviewing after school provision and looking again at offering activity based sessions and themed evenings.

These dates will be advertised to all and we would like to encourage as many children as possible to attend; you really don't have to be a regular club user, we would love to see you there supporting the provision and having a really good time in the process!

### **Dates for Your Diary**

4.9.18	New School Year Begins
10.9.18	Nursery Children Start
11.9.18	Football Club Starts 3.15-4.15pm
12.9.18	Junior Swimming lessons begin. Swimming caps required for all swimmers.
13.9.18	Westmorland County Show – KS2 to attend.
14.9.18	Celebration Assembly for parents 2.30pm. Classroom Drop-ins 3-3.45pm
17.9.18	Reading and Phonics Meeting for Reception Parents 4pm
21.9.18	Circus Club starts 3.10pm-4.10pm
28.9.18	Harvest Service at St. John's Church 2pm. All welcome.
2.10.18	Curriculum Open Morning 9am-10am
3.10.18	Dallam Sports: Athletics Y5+6
5.10.18	Individual Photographs and Family Groups pm
8.10.18	Toddler Taster Session: Outdoor Messy Play 9.30am-10.30am
12.10.18	Non-Uniform Day – Toilet Twinning Fundraiser
17.10.18	Parent-Teacher Appointments from 3.15pm
18.10.18	Library Van visiting school
19.10.18	Celebration Assembly 2.30pm
19.10.18	School closes for half-term holidays
29.10.18	School re-opens after half-term break

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 and please respond as early as possible.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

These special assemblies take place every Friday afternoon in school where the children are able to share their learning from the week and we celebrate our achievements. Parents are invited to join these at least once a half-term. The first Celebration Assembly for parents this year is at 2.30pm on Friday 14th September. We look forward to welcoming you.

### **Attendance:**

The governors have asked me to remind parents about our school policy on attendance. Family holidays should always be taken out of term time and all unnecessary absence avoided as much as possible. Punctuality is also extremely important so that your child can start their learning for the day positively. Children arriving later than 8.45am must report to the school office immediately so that the register is marked accordingly. If your

child is going to be absent, please notify the office either via the telephone or email before 9am.

### **Returning Reply slips and money**

Please can all parents use the class-box system to return all paperwork to the office. Each class has a box where all communication is collected and then taken down to the office immediately after the register has been taken. This system avoids parents having to queue to speak to Mrs Coker in the morning and teaches the children to be responsible and develop their independence. We really would appreciate everyone's cooperation with this system.

### **County Show**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to accompany us on our trip to the show this year. We will look forward to you joining us and would ask that you arrive at school at 8.35am on Thursday morning to meet with myself about arrangements for the day. If you stated on the reply slip that you were interested in coming but did not make a commitment, please can you let us know your intentions as soon as possible.

Finally, we do always aim to make everyone feel welcome and valued at Levens School. The staff strive to ensure they are approachable and that parents, as well as pupils, feel well-informed and supported. Our website is a very good way to keep in touch with school; whether to find out about future events on our web calendar or to learn about what's been going on in school by viewing the blog. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch – every member of staff is more than happy to help in any way possible.

With my very best wishes

Jane Farraday