



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

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Thursday 18th October 2018

Dear Parents

We have enjoyed such a great first few weeks of the year and have enjoyed welcoming so many of our parents and families into school for a range of events including: Celebration Assemblies, our Harvest Festival, Class Drop-Ins, our Curriculum Open Morning and Parent Teacher Appointments.

Sixteen parents enjoyed observing teaching and learning earlier this month. We have received some very positive feedback about the event on our evaluation forms:

'Every pupil in each class was engaged, listening and working on the tasks. All the children were enjoying their learning'

'Levens School uses a range of opportunities in the indoor/outdoor environment to facilitate children's learning.'

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and took the time to complete an evaluation.

Staff News

On behalf of governors, we are overjoyed to announce that Mrs Helen Haslam has now been officially appointed as Bowfell's classteacher. She brings energy, enthusiasm and experience to her role on a daily basis, ensuring our children enjoy fun and interactive learning to enable them to make good progress.

School Site and Safety

It has been good to see that the building preparations for our new dining hall have recommenced with the demolition of the old building last week watched by many excited spectators.

On Tuesday 30th October, the cranes will be arriving very early in the morning to drop the new modular building onto the school site. On this day, access to the school will remain through the playing fields entrance but families will need to take a detour along the path around the bowling green and through the park gate to get into school. Parking will therefore be extremely difficult on this day and I urge parents who live in the village to walk to school with your child if possible, rather than travel by car.

Preparations for the new building will be taking place on site during the halfterm holidays. Please may I remind everyone that no one should be on our school site out of school hours. Should you see any activity on the playground at weekends, during holidays or in the evenings; please report to us, or if necessary the police, as soon as possible.



Arriving and Leaving School

Concerns regarding children's safety when they arrive has been shared repeatedly with the highways department and the community PC. I have also talked at length with the bus company transporting our children who travel to and from Foulshaw. The bus collects the children from the main entrance at 3pm so that the bus is not obstructing the gate layby at the Playing Fields entrance. However, in the mornings, the bus needs to be able to pull in and drop-off at this point so that the children can walk into school independently as it is not possible for us to guarantee that a member of staff can always be there to greet them.

Please may I request that parents and carers do not park in front of the Playing Field gates or the main entrance at the start or end of the school day. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

FOLS

Our very dedicated but small team of parents are looking for new recruits and volunteers to support efforts to arrange fundraising events to benefit all the children in school. Over many years, FOLS have helped fund whole school trips to the theatre, STEM experience days, MyMaths, canoeing, ghyll scrambling and purchased reading books, science equipment, class dictionaries and thesauruses; as well as substantial contributions to play equipment for breaktime and learning resources for Bowfell's outdoor area.

A meeting to schedule our ventures this year is planned to take place after halfterm. If you would like to learn more, please take a look at the groups Facebook page 'Friends of Levens School' or email the school office and we will forward your contact details to the chair, Sarah Kitching.

World War 1 and Remembrance:

To commemorate the 100 year anniversary of WW1, the children will take part in a World War and Remembrance themed week beginning Monday 5th November. We will be learning more about war and conflict across the curriculum and create a display in one area of the hall. Our service this year will take place at school with our exhibition providing the focal point of the service. Everyone is very welcome to attend our service of Remembrance at 10.30am on Friday 9th November in school.

School Council:

Congratulations to Finn, Poppy, Lucie, Ailsa, Aaron and Pearl who have been elected by their peers to be representatives on the School Council this year. Look out for lots of fun fundraising events planned by our enthusiastic group!

Dates for Your Diary

29.10.18	School reopens after halfterm
31.10.18	Y56 High Five Netball at Dallam
1.11.18	South Lakes Pupil Parliament at the Netherwood Hotel Grange
1.11.18	YoYo Autumn Party (sign up sheet in hall)
5.11.18	WW1 100years themed week of learning
8.11.18	Tapestry Drop-in for Reception parents 3.15-4pm
9.11.18	Service of Remembrance in school 10.30am. All welcome
16.11.18	Kendal Mountain Festival 12.30-2.30pm Y56
	Children in Need Day (details to follow)
21.11.18	Tag Rugby Competition at Dallam Y34
23.11.18	Celebration Assembly 2.30pm all welcome
30.11.18	Christmas Fair 5-7pm
3.12.18	ToddlerTaster - Festive Crafts 9.30am-10.30am

4.12.18	Nativity 1.30pm and 6pm
5.12.18	Nativity 6pm
12.12.18	Peter Pan at the Dukes Theatre, Lancaster
13.12.18	Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
14.12.18	Music Extravaganza 9.30am
18.12.18	Christmas Service at St. John's 9.30am. All welcome
	Scafell and Skiddaw Christmas party 1pm
19.12.18	Bowfell Christmas Party 1pm
21.12.18	School Closes for Christmas holidays 2pm
7.1.19	School closed for staff training
8.1.19	School reopens for spring term 8.35am

Not every event in the calendar for the rest of this term has been confirmed, so please look out for changes on the playground noticeboard and on the 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.

Attendance:

Our School attendance so far this year is 97.6% which is just below our school target of 98%. 41 of our pupils have 100% attendance so far this year and will receive recognition of this in assembly if it continues until the end of term.

Governors have asked me to remind parents that good attendance is essential if pupils are to ensure they have no gaps in their knowledge or understanding. Every session missed can impact on future learning. Holidays should not be taken in term time. Punctuality is also extremely important so that our pupils start the day positively and ready to learn. Every child should be in their classroom settling into their morning task by 8.45am each day, by which time parents should have left the classroom so that we can start our learning promptly.

Children arriving after this time, must report to the office before going to classrooms.

Toilet Twinning:

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our Toilet Twinning Non-uniform day last week. We raised £85 in total enabling us to buy one toilet and use the additional funds raised to add to the Levens Shop collection to twin a further toilet. This week the children in Scafell have been researching information about each of the 10 countries where we can buy a toilet. They will be presenting their research in an assembly after halfterm and the children will then be able to vote on which country they would like to support. More news will follow soon.

Christmas Shopping:

Please use the Easyfundraising site to do your online shopping for Christmas this year. This website enables you to shop with many of the high street retailers and raise funds for school at the same time. A link can be found on our website for www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

Wishing everyone a lovely halfterm,
Yours sincerely

Jane Farraday

