



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of another busy term at Levens, we would like to share with you some highlights and provide you with details of events taking place early in the summer term.

Many of our children have enjoyed some exciting sporting events including Cross-Country Running fixtures and Key Steps Gymnastics Competitions at Dallam and Cartmel Schools. Congratulations to Oscar Davies who represents Cumbria at the National Cross-Country championships this weekend. On Wednesday evening, all of Skiddaw performed their dance routine at the Brewery Art Centre Dance Festival following weeks of extensive rehearsals with our expert dance coach, Miss Nic. They were totally fabulous!



All our year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed a wonderful three day experience in Edinburgh just before half-term. Plans are already well underway for Scafell's 2020 adventure!

Thank you to everyone who has supported all our fundraising in school this term. School Council organised a range of fun activities for Comic Relief raising a total of £151. £125 was also raised for school with our Fairtrade Afternoon Tea and recent School Disco.

FOLS:

Friends of Levens School shared a very generous £2000 cheque with school this week that will be used to pay for experiences and resources to enrich every child's learning. Some of this money has already been allocated to purchase three STEM days for each class to enjoy in the summer term; resources and books to support mindfulness and emotional wellbeing; and a new fun online maths resource to improve rapid recall of multiplication facts for pupils in year 1 through to year 6.



School Funding Gap:

You may have seen in the headlines recently the catastrophic cuts to school funding following evidence shared from the Institute of Fiscal Studies which has reported that per-pupil funding has fallen by 8% since 2010 and that there is a £5.7bn short fall in pupil funding for 2019-20. Schools have never been under greater financial pressure. At Levens School, governors and staff are committed to ensuring learning is not compromised; that we are able to maintain our current provision; and that school continues to go from strength to strength.

Therefore, we couldn't be more grateful for every penny that is raised through all the fundraising efforts of FOLS, our parents, our children, and our staff which collectively make a huge difference and is massively appreciated. Thank you.

Staff News:

At the end of next week, we will be very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Caroline Hayes who has secured a fulltime senior teaching assistant role at Ghyllside Primary School in Kendal. Mrs Hayes has been a huge asset to our school since joining us in September 2016. During this time, our nursery provision has grown from 2 pupils to an expected total of 13 pupils from Easter. Mrs Hayes' contribution to the growth and success of this provision is immeasurable. Her commitment, passion and dedication have ensured our youngest pupils have the best start and she will be very much missed by us all.

Please be reassured that our Nursery Provision will not be compromised in Mrs Hayes' absence and news of adaptations to the environment and arrangements for staffing will be shared with parents very soon.

Governor News:

As part of their role to hold school to account, governors regularly conduct visits to school to monitor and evaluate school performance in a multitude of areas including: assessment, early years provision, curriculum, finance management, safeguarding etc. A recent monitoring visit investigated our wider curriculum and found many strengths including: a balance of skills and knowledge based learning; opportunities for children to learn in a range of ways; an abundance of evidence demonstrating cross-curricular learning. Part of this monitoring involved interviews with children about their learning and provided us with some very positive feedback: *'The children were enthusiastic and full of pride. They were engaged and absorbed by the curriculum on offer and readily demonstrated their learning.'*

We are very pleased to have welcomed Rev. Bryan Kerr to our governing body earlier this month. Rev. Bryan has been coming into school every Thursday morning to lead our assemblies and will be leading our Easter Service at St. John's next week.

We currently have two parent governor vacancies on our governing body that we are really keen to fill to ensure that our Board has strength and depth and that there is appropriate representation from the parent body. If you'd like to know more about the rewarding role of being a school governor please let us know, and call in for a confidential and unpressured chat about the level of commitment. You could make a substantial contribution to school improvement and therefore the lives of Levens pupils now and in the future.

Diary dates:

22.3.19	KS1 Lunchtime FA Football Partners session
25.3.19	Year 6 Booster Session 3-4pm
25.3.19	Skiddaw Parent-Teacher Appointments from 3.30pm
26.3.19	Year 2 (5.30pm) and Year 6 (6pm) Assessment meetings for parents
28.3.19	Skiddaw Parent-Teacher Appointments from 2pm
29.3.19	Easter Service at St. John's Church with Rev. Bryan Kerr 9.30am all welcome
29.3.19	KS1 Lunchtime FA Football Partners session
29.3.19	Break up for Easter holidays at 2pm
15.4.19	School opens for summer term 8.35am
15.4.19	Year 6 Booster 3-4pm
16.4.19	Maths Information Evening for Parents 6pm. Details to follow.
17.4.19	Mini-Tennis and Tri-Golf Year 3-6 at Dallam. Details to follow.
19.4.19	School Closed - Good Friday
22.4.19	School Closed - Easter Monday
23.4.19	Football Club restarts
25.4.19	Experience Easter at St. John's Church
25.4.19	Year 6 Booster 3-4pm
26.4.19	Celebration Assembly 2.30pm all welcome
29.4.19	Year 6 Booster 3-4pm

Year 5 Tea Club:

All our year 5 pupils will soon be invited along to Mrs Mason's Tea Club which will resume at the start of the summer term. Details to be shared soon.

Skiddaw Parent-Teacher Appointments:

I am very pleased to report that Mrs Wadey's recovery is progressing well and therefore she feels fit to arrange her appointments for next week: Monday 25th March from 3.30pm and Thursday 28th March from 2.30pm. There is a sign-up sheet in Skiddaw classroom where you can choose a convenient time. Please could we request that our parents living at Foulshaw, whose children arrive on the bus, make contact with Mrs Wadey via your child's reading record indicating your preferred date and time.

Trespassers on School Grounds:

Please let us know if you see anyone playing on our school grounds at weekends or during the holidays. Although the gates will be locked during the Easter holidays, we expect that this will not deter some children from climbing over the wall and playing in our outdoor areas. With new resources now in Bowfell's outdoor area and our goal/net posts also recently installed, we are very keen that these do not get damaged and continue to be enjoyed by Levens pupils for years to come. I should highlight that there are issues surrounding public liability and the security of our building with 'out of hours' trespass. In addition, we are likely to have contractors on site patching tarmac and finalising general repairs on the playground this holiday. Please let us know if you see trespassers on our school site so that we can follow up appropriately.

Bowfell Outdoor Area:

The refurbishment programme to improve the outdoor area for Bowfell pupils is nearing completion. With new resources installed and some staff training; our provision has been considerably enhanced. This extensive work has been made possible through funds derived from a variety of sources including: a successful lottery bid; donations from Levens Charity and Story Homes; and funds allocated from FOLS. We look forward to hosting an event in the summer term to officially open our new and improved outdoor learning environment.

We hope to see you at our Easter Service next Friday,
With my very best wishes,

Jane Farraday