



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Friday 24th May 2019

Dear parents and carers

It has been wonderful to welcome some new children and families to Levens this term. Our nursery continues to grow from strength to strength with fourteen children now accessing our provision at different times during the week.

This term has already been extremely busy and we have enjoyed several opportunities for our families to be involved with school including our celebration assemblies; our Easter service at St. John's; and a maths surgery drop-in for parents to support learning at home. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising and 'Meet the Governors' event last Friday. We raised just over £150 for those affected by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique. If the opportunity to talk with governors inspired you to find out more about this rewarding role, please let us know so that we can explain in greater detail the contribution you can make to the future success of Levens CE School. We currently have two parent governor vacancies; and without full representation on our board, the leadership of the school continues to be compromised. Please do get in touch if you'd like to know more, without any obligation to commit at this early stage of interest.

Recently, we have enjoyed a number of sporting events including Kendal Ski competition and Dallam inter-school rounders for our year 3+4 pupils. Our two Tri-Golf teams did exceptionally well; one team managing to secure first place! Year 5 have been enjoying entertaining and cooking for honoured guests at Tea Club and the whole school has taken part in our 'Experience Easter' in the grounds of St. John's – huge thanks to Pam and everyone involved.

Well done to all our pupils in year 2 and year 6 who have been undertaking their statutory assessments during May. We have worked particularly hard all year to ensure everyone was well prepared and confident; without compromising our broad and balanced wider curriculum.

Fundraising in school last term has enabled the School Council to purchase new playtime equipment for everyone to enjoy. Our Eco-Team have also been busy as they took part in the Cumbria Litter-pick earlier this term. Armed with waterproofs and essential equipment they braved a very wet day to do their bit for our community.

We have been hugely involved with STEM Cumbria this term. All the children in Skiddaw have been provided with an amazing Lego project to enjoy over several



weeks involving programming and debugging moving models using IT. Every pupil in our three classes has been or will be involved in full day sessions with STEM Cumbria working on projects using Knex, robotics and Lego; all generously funded by FOLS.

Sun Protection and Warm Weather:

Please may I remind parents that all pupils should have a hat and a waterbottle in school every day. Suncream should be applied before children come to school, but they can also bring suncream in a labelled bottle to apply during the school day.

Children shed their coats and jumpers whilst they play outdoors in the warm weather, but we often find it very difficult to reunite clothes with owners. Please ensure all uniform is clearly named so that items do not get lost!

Morning Routines in Bowfell:

Every morning we try to provide a calm, welcoming and settled atmosphere in every classroom. However, this is proving more challenging to achieve with our youngest pupils who can often feel unsettled when their learning environment becomes over-crowded and noisy with so many adults in the class in the mornings. Please could we ask all our Bowfell parents to be mindful of this and to leave the classroom promptly. We also need to secure the school when the bell is rung so that our school day can commence, so please could we ask that any conversations between parents continue outside the main building. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

FOLS:

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent FOLS meeting. Our small team of very dedicated parents have some lovely events planned to raise funds to improve our school and therefore the experiences of our pupils. Please support our coffee morning at the Institute (15th June); look out for a Gin tasting evening coming soon; and we have a sponsored walk planned for the autumn term.

FOLS continue to support school in a range of ways. Recent contributions have provided three specialist learning days from STEM Cumbria for each class; mindfulness resources; and reading books. FOLS also contributes to providing year six with a memorable end to their Levens journey. Each pupil receives a framed photograph; an afternoon treat at a venue of their choice – this year it's Treetop Nets at Brockhole - and a celebratory feast cooked by our year 5 tea-clubbers! FOLS have also pledged money for some new maths resources and to pay for the coach that will make our school trip to the theatre in the autumn term much more manageable for parents.

Let us know if you would like to play an active role in fundraising for school by joining the FOLS team.

Attendance:

New procedures and an updated policy on attendance has been approved this week by School's Governing Body due to increased numbers of parents choosing to take their children out of school during term time. School has been supported by the Access and Inclusion officer for Cumbria when dealing with holidays in term time. Parents need to be aware that fines are being issued by Cumbria County Council to parents who take their children out of school in term time.

From the 1st June, applications for leave of absence must be made at least seven days prior to the proposed absence and must be requested in writing using the 'Parent Request for Absence' form available from the school office and published on our school website. Email or letter notifications will no longer accepted. Parents must clearly identify the reasons why they consider the absence qualifies as exceptional circumstances. All requests will receive a written response from school and the absence category determined will be added to your child's school attendance history.

If the request is for a family holiday is not considered to be identified as exceptional circumstances, and you nevertheless take your child out of school, this will be recorded as unauthorised leave and may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice under section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The amount is £60 per parent per child.

Further information and our Attendance policy can be found the attendance page of the school website.

Breakfast club:

We do have some parents who are showing an interest in breakfast club provision from 8am. Please do let us know if this is something you would use and could commit to. If we can ensure it is financially viable, we will look to introducing a morning club from September 2019.

Diary dates:

Please note; the summer term is always extremely busy and events are often added throughout the term. Please keep a close eye on our online calendar containing the most current information for forthcoming events.

Friday 24 th May	School closes for halfterm break at 3pm
Monday 3 rd June	School reopens at 8.35am
Tuesday 4 th June	STEM Cumbria: Skiddaw Knex Challenge (funded by FOLS)
Wednesday 5 th June	Scafell Sailing Day 2. More information about location of pick up to follow.
Wednesday 5 th June	World Environment Day
Thursday 6 th June	Information Evening for our new Reception parents. 6pm

Friday 7 th June	Mr Dean's STEM Club 3-4pm (last session)
Monday 10 th June	Tea Club Year 5 Group 2 Commences
Wednesday 12 th June	Skiddaw Canoeing Day
Thursday 13 th June	STEM Cumbria: Bowfell Lego Challenge (funded by FOLS)
Tuesday 18 th June	NSPCC 'Speak out Stay safe' Assembly and Workshops for Y1-6
Wednesday 19 th June	Bowfell Orienteering Event at Dallam pm. Details to follow.
Friday 21 st June	Celebration Assembly for parents 2.30pm – all welcome

Save the Date:

Sports Day – Tuesday 2nd July from 9.15am

Music Extravaganza – Friday 12th July at 9.30am

Leavers' Service at St. John's – Thursday 19th July 9.30am

Term Dates 2019-20:

Autumn term: Wednesday 4th September until Friday 20th December

(Nursery provision commences on Monday 9th September)

Half term: Monday 21st October until Friday 25th October

Spring term: Tuesday 7th January until Friday 27th March

Half term: Monday 17th February until Friday 21st February

Summer term: Tuesday 14th April until Friday 17th July

Half term: Monday 25th May until Friday 29th May

Additionally, please note that school term dates for the next several years are available on the Cumbria County Council website. We ask you please to check dates prior to booking advance holidays.

With my very best wishes

Jane Farraday