



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Dear Parents

We are at the start of another new academic year and I would like to extend a special welcome to all our new families and pupils who have joined us this week; 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. All our pupils arrived at school smart, happy and ready to learn yesterday. Smiles have been a constant feature of our first two days; from staff as well as pupils.

School Environment

Work to enhance our learning environment has taken place during the holidays. Many of you will have already seen our beautiful new school entrance hall containing new display areas, a stunning mural and a new front desk. External painting of the school building has also been undertaken, and we are grateful to both Mr Bland and Playdale for their support in repairing and extending our trim trail using funds from our government sports grant.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey before the end of last term. We received a total of 27 replies and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

My child is happy at this school - 100% agree or strongly agree!

More detailed information regarding the responses will be shared with parents once the data has been analysed by school leaders.

Classroom Drop-Ins

We would like to invite you and your children into school on Friday 13th September, immediately after our first Parent Celebration Assembly of the year, between 3pm and 3.45pm to look around school and visit your child/children's 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 two afternoons but we appreciate that if necessary you may want to talk to us privately before then.



Lunchtime Supervision:

Recruiting staff to support the children at lunchtimes is extremely difficult and staff are currently going the extra mile to supervise children whilst eating their lunch and playing on the yard. If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a member of the Levens team in this hugely important and rewarding role then please let us know. We could offer some flexibility for the right candidate.

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. All pupils are required to wear sensible school shoes rather than trainers or boots. Denim is not considered to be appropriate for 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. 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 by leaving the classroom as soon as you see your child is settled. This is particularly important in Bowfell Classroom where large numbers of parents at any one time can lead to increased noise levels and an overcrowded room - many of our youngest pupils find this intimidating and upsetting.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Dates for Your Diary

4.9.19	New School Year Begins
9.9.19	Nursery Children Start
10.9.19	Football Club Starts 3.15-4.15pm
11.9.19	Junior Swimming lessons begin. Swimming caps required for all swimmers.
11.9.19	QES Open Evening Year 6 6.30pm
12.9.19	Westmorland County Show – KS2 to attend.
13.9.19	Celebration Assembly for parents 2.30pm. Classroom Drop-ins 3-3.45pm
19.9.19	Reading and Phonics Meeting for Reception Parents 4.30pm
25.9.19	Dallam Football Event Year2
27.9.19	Toddler Taster Session 9.30am-10.30am Outdoor Play
4.10.19	Individual Photographs – all pupils. Nursery pupils who are not at school on this day and require a photograph should please let us know by emailing the school office.

7.10.19-11.9.19	Scafell Cyclewise
15.10.19	Parent-Teacher Appointments 3.30pm-6.30pm
16.10.19	Dallam Netball Event Year 5&6
17.10.19	Parent-Teacher Appointments 3.30pm-5.30pm
18.10.19	Celebration Assembly 2.30pm all welcome
18.10.19	School Closes for halfterm

Further events may be added during the course of the term so please also check 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.

Music Lessons

Please note changes to tuition days this year. To ensure the children get the best from each lesson please ensure your child has their music book (and instrument if required). If your child is interested in the learning the guitar, piano or violin, please let Mrs Coker know as soon as possible.

Asthma Care in School

Please ensure your child's inhaler and Asthma Care Plan is returned to school this week.

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 us at these special assemblies regularly. The first Celebration Assembly for parents this year is at 2.30pm on Friday 13th September. We look forward to welcoming you.

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.

Christian Value:

This term's Christian Value is SERVICE. The parable of the Good Samaritan shows we should serve those in need whoever they are. Such service is not offered to gain some kind of advantage for ourselves. Going the extra mile involves sacrifice; putting ourselves out for someone else's benefit.

'Whoever brings blessing is enriched; and one who waters will himself be watered'
Proverbs 11:25

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 no later than 8.45am. 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.

The theme of this year's display in the 'Learning for Life' tent is *Levens Loves to Read*. At the end of the summer term, your child was set a challenge: to recreate a scene from a favourite book in a shoe box. We are looking forward to seeing these in school no later than Monday 9th September. There are some prizes on offer for the most imaginative creations and some will be selected to display at the Show.

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 also 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