



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

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday
Church Road, Levens, Kendal LA8 8PU 015395 60694 office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk

Plans to re-open Levens School on 1st June 2020

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

Firstly, we hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well. Thank you to everyone who has responded to the letter inviting your child to be included in the first phase of opening at some stage after 1st June. We are very sorry that we have not been able to answer some of your specific questions in your emails, but hope that our communication today gives you greater reassurance and enables you to understand the emerging picture of what school may look like as we continue plans to reopen.

We would like to reassure parents that our very first priority is the health and wellbeing of our staff, our pupils and their families. Although we are looking forward to the day when we can welcome back all our children, we need to ensure this happens only when we are confident it is safe to do so, by evaluating and reducing every identified and potential risk.

Since our last correspondence, further, and very detailed instruction has been received from Cumbria County Council, the DfE and Public Health England and we have therefore been able to continue making provisional plans to establish what school may look like after halfterm. This has been a huge challenge during a week when we have also been leading Milnthorpe Hub. On Wednesday evening, the Risk Assessment template and guidance was finally shared by Cumbria County Council. As you may imagine, this is a very robust and thorough process for us to undertake and must be completed and signed off by the Health and Safety team at the local authority before we will be able to re-open. We hope this provides some reassurance to parents who have asked questions about the risk assessment process.

Earlier this week, a letter from Cumbria CC was published on the homepage of the website. It is important that you read and digest the key messages in this letter as it clearly explains that what individual schools are able to offer will be very different, even in our local area, as our premises and



staffing circumstances vary enormously. At Levens School, we currently have the capacity to fulfil the Government's current plans to welcome all primary school children back before the 18th July. However to achieve this, pupils (with the exception of key workers) will only be able to attend school on a part-time basis, perhaps as little as one day a week. This is because staff can only be allocated one group of a maximum of 15 pupils; and each of our four classrooms will need to be deep cleaned at the end of the day so that a different group is able to use the classroom the next day. At the moment we have 3 teachers and 6 teaching assistants who are able to return to work from the 1st June, however, this may change if staff become unwell.

As a result, children will remain with the same group of children each day that they attend; and will not have the opportunity to change groups or mix with other children. We stress again, that the majority of children will not be with their classteacher or in their usual classroom and that the school day will look and feel very different for us all.

As already clearly communicated by the DfE and by School, our curriculum will focus on mental health and wellbeing, physical activity and for our year six pupils some preparation for transition to high school. At other times in the day, the learning in the classroom will replicate the homelearning that will continue to be set by classteachers every Friday, so that all have the opportunity to complete set tasks whether in school or not. Therefore, it is important that our parents are very clear from the outset that for the remainder of the summer term learning will also look entirely different in our classrooms.

As the key worker group includes children from all ages across the school, it will function primarily as a childcare unit. Children from Skiddaw and Scafell will be able to access and complete some of their homelearning tasks during allocated times of the day if they wish, where as our youngest pupils will enjoy activities set up in the classroom and in the outdoors for play. Unfortunately, many of the resources that we are normally able to use have now been restricted and removed from classrooms.

It is really important that parents completely understand from the outset that year group units will be in school for a maximum of 2 days per week; and that specific days will be determined by the risk assessment identifying what is safely manageable. We will not be able to meet parental requests for particular days of the week. There can therefore be no flexibility on the days offered for year groups. If you are a key worker, there is an important decision to be made for you and your family, as choosing to wait until your child's year group is able to return, might not leave you with the flexibility to

go to work. We should reiterate that children cannot change groups once they have started to attend school.

Children will be expected to wear school uniform on the days that they attend school and this must be an entirely clean set of clothes every day. We will also be reducing the amount of resources leaving and entering school. Items that can be brought will include: a morning snack for breaktime; a named water bottle that can be kept and refilled in school; a pair of trainers or pumps for outdoor activity; and a change of clothes (to be kept in school) for our youngest pupils. Children who normally enjoy a school lunch will be able to eat a freshly made packed lunch from our school kitchen that is ready to begin operations from the 1st June. If not, your child will be able to bring in their own packed lunch each day. Children will have opportunities to read in school, but there will be no exchanging of reading books between home and school for the foreseeable future. Therefore, school reading books should stay at home until further notice. There will be no fruit or milk for the remainder of the summer term and as already communicated YoYo will not be available.

At playtimes, the children will be outside in our playground at different times; they will not be able to use our fixed trimtrail; but will have access to their own outdoor play equipment boxes, one for each group. Plans are also in place to stagger our start and finishing times, our lunchtimes and to reduce potential contact on corridors and shared spaces like toilets. No assemblies will take place in our school hall and visitors, including parents, will not be permitted to enter the building.

Our full board of Governors met on Thursday evening (virtually) and School leaders will be working incredibly hard over the halfterm to ensure our risk assessment process has progressed sufficiently to be able to invite **children of our key workers only to return to school from Monday 1st June should the Government's plans remain the same**. Governors agreed at this meeting that we need to take small, managed steps gradually in order to ensure that our systems are working well; our staff are confident in their roles; and that the first set of children arriving at school understand the expectations and have settled back into some different and unusual routines before inviting other groups. At the time of writing, our intention is to begin to invite other year groups from the second week, beginning with our year six pupils. Please be aware that this situation is constantly changing and reliant on so many external factors that could affect our plans.

For some parents, the news of a very slow and gradual return to school may cause frustration and disappointment; for others we know that you will welcome our very measured response and commitment to ensuring the

safety of our pupils and our staff. Whatever your views, it is paramount that you understand that above all else, we must ensure that our risk assessment safely enables all our children to return to school at some point, if only for a small amount of time, before the end of the summer term. We very much look forward to achieving this.

Parents who are key workers:

Please may we now request that the parents of key workers contact us again to let us know which days you wish your child/children to attend school on the week beginning Monday 1st June and whether you would like your child to have a school lunch. You should also ensure that you have shared with us a letter or email from your employer confirming your employment status in response to Covid19. We would like to remind parents that your child may only access the 'Key Worker Unit' on the days that you are working.

During halfterm, parents will receive further details about how and when to arrive at school and collect your child/children at the end of the day. You will also receive further instructions about what your child may bring to school and arrangements for the school day.

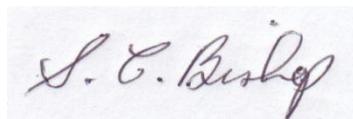
Parents of children in other eligible year groups will be updated with plans to welcome their child/children back to school as soon as we are able.

Once again, we would like to thank all our parents for the support and understanding you continue to give to school in these incredibly challenging circumstances.

With our very best wishes



Jane Farraday
Headteacher



Suzan Bishop
Chair of Governors