

# Levens CE School

Levens CE School is a happy, safe and inspiring place to grow and learn, where we enjoy the learning experiences each new day brings. Everyone is supported and nurtured through our distinctively Christian ethos and shared Christian values.

It is our aim to develop and sustain a life-long love of learning by building for our future in a diverse and ever-changing world. Rich and wide-ranging experiences enable everyone in school to be creative and develop the personal skills required to be responsible, confident and considerate; taking pride in all that we do.



## Welcome to Nursery 2020

Welcome to Nursery at Levens CE School. Choosing the right nursery for your child is a very important decision. At Levens CE School we provide wonderful learning experiences every day in a safe, secure and happy environment. Our staff team are committed to ensuring the very best education and care for your child.

Our Nursery was opened in September 2016 and is the only provision for pre-school children within a 3 mile radius. Our initial offer of 15 hours per week has now been extended and we are very pleased to be able to offer all day on Mondays, Tuesday and Fridays; plus Wednesday mornings from September 2020.

We hope to continue to extend our provision as soon as we have viable interest from our parents and families.

Children can join Nursery from the term following their third birthday, either September, January or Easter.

All children are entitled to 15 hours per week and some families are entitled to up to 30 hours. This brochure will provide you with information about what our Nursery can offer and how to apply for a place.

Please arrange a visit to school by contacting the school office.

### **Our Nursery**

Our Nursery is part of Levens CE Primary School which caters for children from 3 to 11 years. Pupils are arranged into three mixed-age classes; and our Nursery children share Bowfell Class with our Reception pupils. Our spacious classroom and outdoor area are well resourced to stimulate and develop rich and varied play.

In the September after they turn 4, our Nursery children transfer to Reception. There are many opportunities for your child to experience school prior to them starting Nursery including Toddler Taster sessions six times a year (see our website for dates and times); whole school events such as our annual Christmas Fair and Sports Day; and some 'transition sessions' during the summer term.

Home visits will take place prior to your child starting Nursery so that we are able to see your child in their own setting and ensure you have all the necessary information before your child starts.

### **How much time is my child entitled to?**

All children are entitled to 15 hours Nursery Education per week, but many parents will be entitled to have 30 hours:

Families who qualify for 30 hours will have:

- A child aged 3 or 4
- Parents who work more than 16 hours a week
- An annual household income of less than £100,000
- Live in England

Each Nursery session is 3 hours

- If you are eligible for 15 hours you can choose 5 free sessions per week.
- If you are eligible for 30 hours you may be able to choose all 7 sessions (dependant on if your child attends another nursery in addition to Levens).
- Information about your entitlement can be found at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). There is also a Childcare Calculator at [www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator) where you can see what offers are available to support you and your family.

If you are eligible for 30 hours free childcare place for 3 and 4 year olds, please provide us with your eligibility code (DERN number) and your National Insurance Number so that we can verify your eligibility.

### Charges for additional sessions above universal 15 hours

If your child is only entitled to 15 hours, but you would like them to attend more sessions; you can do so but you would be charged for the additional sessions: £15/morning or £30/day. Children staying all day can either bring a packed lunch or have a school meal. Menu choices for school meals can be viewed on our school website and are payable at £2.65 per day.

### Applying for a Nursery Place

You will need to use our Nursery application form to apply to attend at our Nursery and please ensure you identify your session preferences. The application form is published on our website and can also be found on the back page of this brochure.



Nursery Start Date	Closing date for applications
September	May 31st
January	October 31st
April	February 28th



### **Available Sessions from September 2020:**

Morning session 8.45-11.45 (3hours)	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
All Day 8.45-3pm (6hours)	Mondays	Tuesdays			

### September 2020

**Nursery opens on Monday 7th September 2020 at 8.45am.** If your child is due to start Nursery in the spring or summer term; home visits will take place at least a few days before your child starts attending.



## Our Learning Environment

The classroom is organised into different areas of learning which are directly linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. There are opportunities for mark making and writing, practical, hands on maths, creative and malleable areas as well as a role-play and a reading area. We also have a set of iPads which the children are able to use in order to engage in age-appropriate software. In addition to this, the classroom also has challenge areas which are updated each week in order to extend the children's learning and allow them to explore and problem solve independently. These areas help to develop physical development, reading, writing and maths. We aim to deliver a balance of teacher led activities which run alongside independent learning opportunities within the classroom.

We also have a beautiful outdoor area where the children have 'free flow' access for the majority of the day. The outdoors plays an important role in developing children's physical, creative and problem solving skills.

The Framework is divided into Prime and Specific areas of learning:

The Prime areas of learning			
Communication and Language	Physical Development	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	
Specific areas of learning			
Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the world	Expressive arts and design

The children are assessed against the Development Matters objectives which are split into age bands from birth to 5 years of age. We continually assess where the children are currently working within the age bands in order to plan meaningful learning opportunities and next steps for their development.

The children's learning is captured in two ways within our Foundation Stage:

- An online learning journey - 'Tapestry' which can be viewed and added to by both staff and parents.
- A whole class learning journey scrapbook which displays and details adult-led and child-initiated work and activities.

There are opportunities throughout the year when you will be able to formally meet with your child's class teacher or key worker, see your child's work and discuss their learning and progress. If your child is due to move to Reception then you will receive your child's End of Year Report during the summer term.

Should you need to discuss your child's learning and development at any other times in the year, then please let us know; we pride ourselves on being approachable, supportive and helpful.



### **Children with Special Education Needs**

At Levens CE School we provide equality for all children, including those identified as having any additional needs. Our setting, our curriculum and the expertise of our staff ensures all pupils are able to breakdown any barriers to learning in order to access a rich and broad curriculum developing skills and their understanding to make good progress.

Our Ofsted Inspection November 2017 highlighted parents support for school and particularly, how *'teachers use their 'special skills' to draw out highly positive attitudes from their children towards their school work.'*

More information about provision for children with SEND can be found on our website or by talking to our SEND lead, Mrs Sarabeth Pearce or the Headteacher, Mrs Jane Farraday.

### **What will your child need?**

- Most children in Nursery wear school uniform, however it is not compulsory for Nursery pupils to wear uniform.
- Easily managed shoes – Velcro is best!
- A small rucksack containing three sets of spare clothing (this does not have to be uniform) including underwear, socks and spare footwear.
- Weather dependent clothing – sun hats in the summer and hats, scarves, a warm coat and gloves in the winter.
- A puddle/splash suit and wellies (children will be unable to partake in certain activities without these).
- A water bottle.
- Book bags are not compulsory but are a good idea for bringing home letters and things children have created.

### **Please ensure everything is named.**

The table below gives current costs for our most popular items:-

Sweatshirt	£9.75
Cardigan	£10.60
Fleece Jacket	£13.60
Book Bag	£5.50

All items are obtainable from our suppliers, Coniston Corporate via the link on the school website where a full order form is available. Collated items are then received in school and sent home as soon as possible. Payment is made online and we recommend that you please order in good time.

### **Arriving in school in the mornings**

All children enter school through the Bowfell gate situated to the left of School's main entrance. Each morning the children in Nursery will be encouraged to develop their independence through a range of activities including: choosing their lunch, self-registering and beginning a morning activity independently. These routines ensure the children are able to enter a calm and quiet classroom and are able to settle quickly which sets the right tone for learning throughout the rest of the day.

### **Infant Fruit and Snack**

All children are given a piece of fruit or vegetable daily and a cup of milk for a morning snack as part of our healthy eating plan. The fruit is free for all infant children. Milk is free for your child until the term after their 5th birthday.

This time is used for socialising with all of Bowfell Class; the children are encouraged to try new foods, and learn from each other. The adults join in, modelling behaviour and taking time to chat to the children and reflect on their learning experiences.



### **Lunchtime Provision on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays only**

The lunchtime session begins at 11.45am until 1pm. During this time your child will be able to enjoy a cooked school meal or bring a packed lunch. Daily menus are available to view in the school entrance hall and meals are priced at £2.65. The Nursery children will eat with the Reception and Year 1 children in our dining hall and will always be accompanied by one of the Bowfell team.



### **Potty/Toilet Training**

It is anticipated that most children in Nursery will be able to use the toilet, however if this is not the case please discuss your child's needs with us prior to their starting date.

### **Safeguarding**

At our school, the health and safety of all children is of paramount importance. Parents send their children to school each day with the expectation that school provides a secure environment in which their children can flourish.

*'Safeguarding pupils is a high priority and a strength of the school. You and the staff have established a culture of vigilance in the school. You know your community and pupils well, and all staff understand that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.'* Ofsted November 2017.

The Designated Teacher in Charge of Safeguarding is Mrs Farraday. In her absence, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Wadey. Should you have any concerns about the welfare of any children in school, please let us know immediately.

At Levens CE School we will ensure everything possible is undertaken to safeguard the welfare of all children in our care. If the school has a reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to harm, ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff will take appropriate action.

### **Your Child's Health**

Sometimes children need prescription medication. In some circumstances, and when the medication timing necessitates that a dose is given during the school day, please speak to Mrs Coker in the office who will be able to help you complete the necessary paperwork that will allow us to administer medicine in school. If your child is asthmatic and needs an inhaler in school during the day, please ensure we are promptly informed as we require certain paperwork completing.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform us by either telephoning the office between 8.30am and 9am or emailing Mrs Coker at [office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk) on the first day of your child's absence.

If your child becomes unwell at school or has an accident that may require hospital treatment we would contact you immediately using the contact details you have provided for school. It is a statutory requirement that school has at least two emergency contact details for every pupil in school. We should also be provided with a third contact who does not live in the family home, this is often a grandparent or close family friend.

Children who have received any first aid in school will receive a 'First Aid' or 'Head Bump' letter informing parents of details.

### **Communication with School**

At Levens CE School, we understand that developing and maintaining strong links with parents is essential to our children's learning and development throughout their education. Therefore, it is essential that you feel welcome in school and able to talk to us or ask us questions as they arise.

There are several ways to keep in touch with what's happening in school. Our website includes a 'blog' where your child's experiences in and out of school are posted regularly, alongside photographs. The website also has a calendar providing early notification of forthcoming events. In the pupils section of the website, Bowfell has its own class page with up to date information about curriculum and learning.

Information is also shared via the school text alert system. This is useful for last minute changes to arrangements and useful reminders. Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible. Newsletters are distributed at least once every month and are also published on the website. Other letters are also sent home via book bags for specific events or information,

sometimes requiring reply slips and payments. These can be sent back into school with your child and placed in the black box positioned on Mrs Haslam's desk. Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible.

Bowfell also has its very own Instagram page which you can follow by searching **levenseyfsy1**. Please note that this page does not publish photographs of pupils. It documents different learning opportunities and activities which parents and carers might like to see.

### Meet the team



Helen Haslam – Bowfell  
Class Teacher



Eileen Mason –  
Teaching Assistant



Lauren Butler -  
Teaching Assistant



Liz Mackereth -  
Teaching Assistant



Martine Harwood –  
Teaching Assistant



Angela Troughton -  
Teaching Assistant,  
Midday Supervisor and  
Yoyo Club Playleader

Thank you for taking the time to read about our arrangements for your child starting Nursery. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require any further information.

**Contact Information**

**Address:**

Levens CE School  
Church Road  
Levens  
Kendal  
Cumbria  
LA8 8PU

**Telephone:** 015395 60694

**Email:** [office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk)

**Website:** [www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk)