



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

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Tuesday 1st September 2020

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 are joining us this week; or are due to start in Reception and Nursery very soon. We hope you have enjoyed a good summer break and been able to relax and catch up with family and friends.

We are so extremely excited to be welcoming back all our pupils into School from tomorrow following an extremely disrupted period of time and although we are not exactly completely back to the old normal, there are many things we can do now that we couldn't do last term and the environment and the school day will feel much more familiar and 'normal' to the children.

Many of you will have concerns that your child's learning and progress has been significantly affected by this pandemic; you may also be anxious about how well your child will settle back into the routine of learning and the school timetable after such a long period at home; and some of our pupils will undoubtedly feel anxious about coming back into school tomorrow. Please be reassured that the staff are committed to making all our pupils feel happy, safe and confident as they settle back into school, some with new teachers and in new classrooms. We will be working very hard to ensure this happens very quickly in the first few days back in the new term; and from there we will move to assessing where the children are at in order to inform our planning; with particular emphasis on reading, writing and maths.

Staff News:

We are very excited to be welcoming back Miss Zoe Eastham into Bowfell this term who has been appointed to work alongside our strong Bowfell team on a part-time basis to teach primarily in Year 1 and Reception. Last year, Miss Eastham completed her PGCE training with two placements at Levens School and was mentored by Mrs Haslam. She is a calm, passionate and committed practitioner who has already demonstrated to us her expertise in the classroom and her subject knowledge of the EYFS and Year 1 curriculum. She is going to make a considerable contribution to the learning and progress of our pupils and I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to Levens School in her new role.

We are also very pleased to be welcoming back Mrs Haslam who returns to School this week. Mrs Haslam has been busy over the summer holidays preparing the



classroom environment and planning for our Year 1, Reception and Nursery pupils alongside Miss Eastham. Welcome back Mrs Haslam!

Day to Day Arrangements:

I hope by now that you have found time to read the letter published on our website on Thursday 27^h August with details about arrangements for the new term. You should also have received a text informing you of your 'family group' so that you know your designated arrival and departure time. During the summer term, our system of staggered start and finish times and our one-way system worked extremely well, but with every pupil returning to school this week it is paramount that you adhere to your slot and do not arrive onto the playground before or after this time. This is a key component in ensuring our school operates as safely as possible.

Unfortunately, the current guidance states that parents are not permitted into the school building unless a face-to-face meeting is absolutely necessary. If this is the case, then an appointment will be made so that the meeting can take place in a safe environment. We can however maintain regular contact via emails or telephone conversations should you need to ask a question, discuss a concern or share some information. The office email address should be used for all urgent messages and for reporting absence, YoYo bookings and dinner requests etc, but communication about the class should be directed to the classteacher via the class email accounts.

We realise that our youngest children may find it difficult to part with you in the first few days on our playground. Staff will be there to greet your child and enable you to say goodbyes swiftly. Please be reassured, that children quickly recover once they are in the classroom with their friends and distracted from their parting with you.

Social Distancing out of School:

With clinically vulnerable children and staff returning to School this week, I wish to send out a plea to all our families to always adhere to the most up to date government guidance on social mixing. Our small community includes some who feel anxious about their own and their family's health over the coming weeks and months, some reluctant to return to school knowing that they are increasing their potential risk of contracting Covid-19. With that in mind, regardless of your views on the risks to yourselves and our community, I urge you to follow official guidance carefully. I am therefore requesting that parents consider their own personal position and limit social mixing to only allowing children to play with children from their own bubble (Nursery and Reception, Year 1, Skiddaw or Scafell) outside of school. This will give some of our more vulnerable families the confidence to return next week knowing that we are consistently following advice both in and out of school.

It is also worth considering that just one confirmed case in school would lead to the closure of one or more classes and potentially the entire school. We would then

return to a period of home-learning; something that all of us desperately wish to avoid. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Uniform:

The children always 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.

Your child is permitted to come to school and remain in their PE kit on the appropriate days. We will be doing our PE lessons in the outdoors as much as possible, so your child might like to wear plain joggers or leggings and their PE hoodie to exercise as the weather gets colder through the term. Information about which days your child is doing PE is in the class newsletters published on the website classpages.

All pupils are required to wear sensible school shoes or ankle boots that they should be able to fasten themselves. Trainers, pumps and knee-high boots are not suitable footwear for school and should not be worn on a routine basis. Denim is not permitted in school. Only stud earrings can be worn and should be removed by the wearer for PE lessons. Nail polish, make-up and hair gel should not be worn and long hair should always be tied up.

Parent-Teacher Telephone Calls:

During the weeks of the 7th and 14th of September, classteachers will be making telephone calls to every parent between 3.30-5pm each afternoon to let them know how the first few days in school have gone and answer any questions that you may have. If we call when it is inconvenient or you miss the call, don't worry we will try again on another day; there is no need for you to call us back. Please also note that these calls may be made from the school number or the school mobile. If you are trying to call school between these times, the number may be engaged for some time if parent-teacher appointments are underway.

Arrangements for our usual parent-teacher appointments, usually scheduled for the middle of October, will be shared with you later this term.

Dates for Your Diary:

2.9.20	School term starts for all pupils in years 1-6 Wellness Week!
4.9.20	Reception 'Picnic and Play' 11.30am – 1.30pm
7.9.20	Reception children start school Parent-teacher telephone check-ins 3.30-5pm every day. Years 1,2,3 and 5
14.9.20	Nursery children start school

	Parent-teacher telephone check-ins 3.30-5pm every day. Years Reception, 4 and 6
28.9.20	YoYo closed - Staff Safeguarding Training from 3.30pm.
21.10.20	Whole School Flu Immunisation – details to follow.
26.10.20- 30.10.20	Halfterm holidays

Further events may be added during the course of the term so please also check the website calendar. 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 if required.

Music Lessons:

We are in the process of making arrangements for piano, violin and guitar lessons to restart later this term. Please await further information coming soon.

Asthma Care in School:

Please ensure your child has their current inhaler and a copy of their Asthma Care Plan in school.

Christian Value:

This term's Christian Value is *Thankfulness*. Despite living through a period of intense challenge and difficulty, there is so much we can and should be grateful for in our lives. This term we want to celebrate all that is good and be thankful.

'Praise the Lord, Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: his love endures forever.'
Psalm 106:1

YoYo After School Care:

We are very pleased to be able to restart YoYo from Wednesday 2nd September. Please ensure you read the information on the homepage of our website about how we will be keeping our children safe when they attend YoYo and how we would like you to contribute to the safe operation of this provision. Please ensure you book your place early so that we can staff our provision adequately and note that collection is now from the main entrance of school and not via the staff carpark.

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 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. Please take a look at your child's classpage found in the 'pupils' section of our website if you haven't already: there is lots of information, videos and photographs to share with your child to prepare their return tomorrow.

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.

Look forward to seeing you all tomorrow,

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Farraday". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Jane Farraday