



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

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents,

It is truly fantastic that we have managed to remain fully open for all pupils so far this term. Unlike other schools locally, we have not yet had a positive case within our school, and I am so very grateful to all our parents, our children and the staff for continuing to follow all our procedures and policies with the utmost vigilance. Pupil attendance for this term is incredibly high and well above current national and local statistics.

Despite difficult times, school has remained a very positive and vibrant place for everyone. The children have worked so incredibly hard; they have supported each other and strengthened their friendships; and they have made incredible progress. We have so much to be thankful for!

We hope you have had time to look at our website blog from time to time throughout the term to connect with your child's school experiences and learning that have included: marking Remembrance, fundraising for Children in Need, celebrating Harvest, taking part in UK Parliament Week, voting for our school councillors and this week we started our six part journey exploring the true meaning of Christmas through our travelling 'Experience Christmas'.

We are all very much looking forward to our special events in the final few days of term, including our Christmas dinner and our children's raffle.

### **Arrangements for the new year:**

Whilst there is further good news about the vaccine every day, I am sure it will come as no surprise that we must continue with our arrangements for coming to and from school; our staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes; and our vigilant cleaning and personal hygiene routines into the new term and until DfE guidance changes.

Thank you for the part you have played and will no doubt continue to play in keeping our school community virus-free.

I am hopeful that these systems might be able to be reviewed later in the spring term and I will ensure parents are updated about these changes as soon as this is possible.

### **Staff News**

We are very sad to be losing Mrs Sarabeth Pearce (our SENDco) at the end of this term. Mrs Pearce's expertise has been such an asset to our school and she has led



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our special needs provision with determination and commitment. We wish her luck and happiness in all her future ventures!

I am pleased to be able to reassure parents that we have been undertaking a smooth handover and inform you that Mrs Haslam will be taking over the reins from January 2021.

Parents should continue to contact your child's classteacher in the first instance with any question or concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing, however, please do contact either Mrs Haslam or myself if you have a SEND specific issue. We will be setting up direct communication via [send@levens.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:send@levens.cumbria.sch.uk) in the new year.

### **Christmas Cards and Gifts**

A few parents have asked about bringing gifts and cards into school for staff. If you want to share a gift before the end of term, gifts can be easily stored in quarantine! However, a lovely alternative might be to send an email or a card. Often kind words are the things that make every difference to us all.

The School Council will not be offering their delivery service this year and are suggesting children post their Christmas cards through their friend's letterboxes.

Thank you for supporting school by ordering your child's Christmas cards! We expect these will arrive in school very soon and these will be brought home by your child/children as soon as possible.

### **A chance to look at our child's learning**

In the final week of term, children in year one through to year six will be bringing home one of their work books from school. This was not possible to include at our October parent-teacher appointments and we want to share some of the fantastic work your child has been doing in school this term. If your child is in Reception or Nursery, we are hoping that you will take the time to look at Tapestry to review observations and photographs with your child. The children will love the opportunity to share their learning with you.

Please ensure books are stored safely over the Christmas holidays and returned on the first day back, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, so that the children are able to continue using them at the start of term.

### **Remote Learning**

The teaching staff in school have been extremely busy this term preparing for the possibility of a return to remote learning due to full or partial closure. We are confident that we would now be able to offer a more enhanced provision of learning which would include access to lessons recorded by teachers using Microsoft Teams.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our survey about remote learning. This has helped us identify families who may struggle to access online

learning and require additional support should a return to remote learning be necessary.

### **Governor News**

This term we say thank you and goodbye to Simon Webb, our parent governor, who has dedicated so many hours of his own time to contribute the leadership of this school. He has been such a committed, passionate and skilled member of the board and the Curriculum and Staffing Subcommittee over the last 8 years. I am sure you will want to join me in extending a huge thank you to Simon.

News about our parent governor vacancy will follow in the new year.

### **A Plea for Respectful Parking**

On behalf of our pupils and our community neighbours, please may I politely remind everyone to show courtesy and respect when parking in the vicinity of school.

Parents should not park across the Levens Playing Fields gates on Levens Lane or on the pavement outside Greengate Gardens on Church Road at the start or end of the school day. This blocks access for families arriving on foot and makes crossing the road extremely dangerous.

### **Snow and Bad Weather**

As we get deeper into the winter, please always take care arriving at school if the paths and playground are affected by ice or snow. Mr Medcalf kindly clears or grits some areas of our playground for safe passage into school, but this does not include areas outside the school gates, including the playing fields.

In the unlikely event that we would need to close the school due to bad weather, a message would be posted on the front page of our website and we would use our text messaging service to inform parents as early as possible. We would also aim to communicate a message via Radio Cumbria.

Please note that school may have to close due to staff travelling from remote parts of the county where conditions may be treacherous and they are unable to travel into work. If sufficient staff are unable to get into school, reluctantly, we may also be forced to close.

### **Events leading up to Christmas:**

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day organised by School Council. Please bring in a wrapped donation for our raffle in the last week of term. This can be a new or nearly-new item! Children in Skiddaw and Scafell should ensure that their non-uniform clothes and footwear is appropriate for outdoor PE!*
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Party Day. Please come in your party clothes and bring a £2 donation for your party food. This must be received inside a sealed and labelled envelope.

Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	*Christmas Jumper and Christmas lunch day: please remember to come in your favourite jumper today and remember your £1 donation to school fund if you have not already sent it into school.  Children's Raffle: Please bring in your £1 to purchase your 2 tickets. Everyone who takes part will be guaranteed a prize!
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes at <b>2pm</b> .
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	School closed for staff training
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Welcome back to the new school term.

\*Money raised will be supporting our school fund.

With my very best wishes

Jane Farraday