



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
Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have undoubtedly heard and welcomed the news this week that schools might be permitted to reopen from Monday 8th March. Whilst the delay is longer than you may have been anticipating, I sincerely hope that it is deemed safe enough for us to return to face-to-face teaching and all the social interactions that attending school has to offer our children. I expect what happens over the next few weeks will be crucial and I remain hopeful that we will be able to open our doors to every child in school on this date.

Remote Learning:

Thank you for sharing your news either via email or in your telephone conversations with classteachers recently.

We can see from your posts on Tapestry, your emails and from the work completed in our online workbooks that almost everyone from Reception through to Year 6 is engaged in regular, meaningful and high quality remote learning.

By now, every family should have received at least one call from their child's classteacher. If we have missed you or you would like a further conversation with a member of staff; please do not hesitate to contact us. If staff are not available when you call; we will endeavour to call you back as soon as we are able.

Live Sessions with Classteachers:

We have also run two live 'class catch-up' sessions for children in Skiddaw and Scafell class via Microsoft Teams. These were both very successful, with children enjoying the opportunity to see and talk to their teacher. We are hoping to enhance the way we do this by enabling children to switch on their cameras so that they can also see each other, but in order to do all these things we must have the appropriate procedures and policies in place.

Attached to this letter, you will find our updated Online Policy Covid-19 Addendum that outlines our expectations of parents and children during these live sessions. Before you decide to allow your child to access one of our live sessions via Teams with cameras enabled, it is essential that you have read, understand and agree to follow this guidance.

Mrs Wadey and Mr Dean are planning another session with their classes very soon; whilst Miss Eastham plans to meet with year 1 for the first time next week. Details about joining the events and further information about procedures will come directly from class teachers in due course.

These meetings are for the children only and although we would request that one parent is in the room whilst the meeting is underway, parents should avoid appearing on screens and resist making contributions to the meeting.



Lateral Flow Testing for all school staff:

This asymptomatic testing programme for all staff begins at the start of next week immediately after a training session on Monday afternoon. Training will cover the collection, administration and reporting of tests. Staff will need to carry out twice weekly testing at home before they come into school and are required to report the results of their test online and directly to school. Testing is important because staff could be carrying the virus without knowing it and may spread it to others. It will support our school to continue to operate now; and in the coming weeks and months.

Children currently attending school:

Please note that YoYo is closed on Monday 1st February for staff training.

I am also sorry to inform you that due to insufficient numbers attending school, Orion have informed us that provision of a hot meal in its current form isn't sustainable and there will therefore be a return to sandwiches from Monday 1st February, until school returns to full opening. Children will be provided with a picnic lunch and asked to select a ham, tuna or cheese sandwich. For those infant pupils attending school, these lunches will continue to be provided free of charge.

Children's Mental Health Week:

This is a national project taking place next week and this year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. We would like every child in school to move away from their screens next Thursday afternoon to do something creative and fun that enables them to express themselves freely and has not been set by us! It can be anything really: dancing, baking, yoga, painting, gardening, mindfulness, running, colouring. Please share photographs with us via the class emails and we will share them on our website blog! Learning based around mental health will be shared by classteachers next week, but further information can be found here at [Children's Mental Health](#).

Edinburgh Trip for Scafell Pupils:

It will probably come as no surprise that I have now had to cancel our plans to visit Edinburgh for our residential experience this academic year. I feel particularly sad for our Year 6 pupils who have had two overnight Levens' school trips taken from them over two successive years, after our trip to Brathay Outdoor Education trip was cancelled last summer. I do hope that we will be able to plan off-site experiences for our children in the summer term, but this will depend on the DfE instructing schools that it is safe to do so.

Let's remain optimistic that we can look forward to returning in early March.

Take care and stay safe. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you think we can help in any way. Be kind to yourselves; and when it all becomes too much, put the home learning away and do something different with your day! You and your families' health and happiness is always more important than anything else.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday