



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope this letter finds you and all your family safe and well. I am sure you, like me, are beginning to feel more positive as the current national lockdown appears to be having an effect and everyone in our school community edges closer to receiving the vaccine that will bring us back to normal times.

In the meantime, thank you for your patience, your understanding and your commitment to keeping your children learning at home. We do not underestimate how incredibly challenging this is; made so much more difficult by so many other factors that form part of your own unique family circumstances. I know that our school community has been affected by a wide range of difficulties brought on by this pandemic and want to reassure you that school is here to support you in any way that we can.

Staff News:

I am sorry to inform you that Mrs Haslam remains unwell and is unlikely to be returning to work before the February halfterm. Thank you for all the kind wishes of support that have been flooding into school since the start of term. As many of you will already be aware, Mrs Haslam shielded throughout the first national lockdown; and after returning to school in September became totally committed to remaining in school and working continuously throughout any future lockdown or local restrictions. It is incredibly unfortunate that her illness lingers long after testing positive back in mid-December.

Please can I reassure all our Reception and Nursery parents that both Miss Butler and I are here to support you as much as possible. Do not hesitate to contact us at bowfell@levens.cumbria.sch.uk if have a question, a concern, or would like to share your learning at home. Miss Butler also regularly checks in with Tapestry too – so please do stay in touch with us.

Remote Learning:

I hope that you are finding the remote learning set by the classteachers manageable, accessible and appropriate. The teachers are working exceptionally hard to ensure that the children are getting a good deal whilst they learn at home. Recording lessons is so time consuming – just a short 5minute clip can take almost an hour to prepare, deliver, review and share; and is just one small element of what we believe is a comprehensive package of learning. We often find ourselves doing several takes as we are all striving to ensure what we present is as good as it can be!! It is so completely different to working in the classroom with the children engaging in our lessons and responding to our questions.



e-on

Online Exercise Books for Y2-Y6:

The online exercise book is really a very effective way for classteachers to provide feedback, just as we would in the classroom. It is really good for the children to see that we are reading their work carefully, that we are valuing their efforts and that we are challenging them further by digging deeper or asking them to look again at their answers. The children's work also informs our planning and the next steps for their learning – a very important part of the teaching and learning process.

Please do not feel that you need to sit with your child to check their responses; correct their errors; or improve their work as they type. If you are providing too much input at your end, it can give us a distorted impression of what the children can achieve independently; which in turn can lead to us to incorrectly pitch the next stage of the learning. The more your child can do independently, the better.

We also understand that some families are finding it difficult to do the work on the day that it is set and have to spend some days feeling that they need to catch up. There is no requirement for your child to do the work on the allocated day or to complete all the work, this is just our suggestion. We know that for those families trying to juggle work, share devices, or work with more than one child at once, you may be working flexibly to fit in with your own family circumstances and may be really struggling. If the work becomes too much; you feel you are not managing; or you need some tips in making this work for you and your child, then please do get in touch with the classteachers who are eager to help!!

Assemblies:

In case you were not aware, I am recording two assemblies a week via Microsoft Teams. During the week you will be emailed our whole school assembly and our Golden Book. Whole School Assemblies in this format were recorded during the autumn term and shared with individual classes with reflections for the children to complete in class. Our Golden Book reading was the highlight of every Friday afternoon where all the children would tune in via Teams from their classrooms. Please view at home if you can!

Christian Value:

This term our Christian Value is endurance which recognises that life is sometimes difficult and painful; and that it is important not to give up in the face of adversity. Endurance and perseverance are only possible where there is hope; and hope that is based on the enduring nature of God's love and faithfulness.

This week's assembly introduces the concept of 'endurance' to the children by thinking about the professional surfer, Bethany Hamilton. I think her story will inspire the children to keep going and be determined to achieve their goals and realise their dreams; even when things seem impossible.

Keeping in Touch:

On Thursday of last week, Mr Dean held a class catch-up meeting with the pupils in Scafell with just over half the pupils attending. Thankfully, the technology did not let us down. Mr Dean used this opportunity to celebrate and share some of the children's work with each other and the children enjoyed the opportunity to talk to one other, as well as reconnecting with Mr Dean. Mrs Wadey intends to host an event for her pupils in Skiddaw this Friday morning at 9.30am, so look out for your invitation via email.

We are also in the process of ringing around parents, just for a five minute catch up to find out how things are going. If we do not manage to reach you, we will leave a message if we can, and hope to be able to connect with you at another more convenient time. However, it is important that you know that you are welcome to call school at any time. Although, not all

staff are in school every day, there will be someone here to answer your call and arrange a call back from your child's classteacher at a suitable time.

Testing in Primary Schools:

Information regarding the twice weekly LFD national testing programme for all primary school staff (not pupils) is now being shared by the DfE and we expect the kits to arrive in the next few days. All staff and regular visitors to school, for example our music teachers, will be asked to engage in this process so that we are able to identify asymptomatic cases in order to protect pupils, staff and families from infection and school from partial or full closure during the remainder of the school year.

As I am sure you can imagine, this is another huge administrative undertaking for school to get in place very quickly, but I have every confidence that this will provide a further additional layer of protection for our school and our community.

Mrs Coker's Running Challenge:

Not sure I ran quite the full mile last Friday, so I definitely have some improvement to make this week. If you haven't already, please join us in this great initiative to get us fitter and enjoying the outdoors so that we run (or walk) the full length of Great Britain by halfterm. Mrs Coker would love to see you and your family in action so send in your photographs to office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk, but be warned we may feature your photographs in our website blog!!

Finally, if you are struggling in any way at the moment, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. I may not have the answers or be able to help, but I am a good listener and I may be able to signpost you to someone who can.

Take care everyone,
With my very best wishes,



Jane Farraday