



# LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a heavy heart that I find myself writing this month's newsletter with so many of our pupils working at home and our lives drastically disrupted again. As you can imagine, all the staff at school, just like you, were very surprised how quickly the Government changed its position on its commitment to opening schools in a little over 24hours. Over the Christmas holidays, the class teachers had spent time updating our website with curriculum information; undertaking curriculum planning; and preparing to be ready for face-to-face learning from Tuesday morning.

I know that you will be disappointed that our children's education has been so severely disrupted again, but we need to remain positive as the news of the vaccination programme gives us hope and optimism for 2021 and the potential return to normality by the summer.

Thank you for being so supportive and for your understanding of school at this incredibly challenging time for our whole community.

**Remote Learning:**

It is already clear that you have been able to access the remote learning that teachers have been busy organising this week. We have all been overwhelmed by the efforts of all our families to embrace home learning once again! The arrangements for this look slightly different across school so that we are providing activities that are tailored to the varied and diverse ages and needs of the children whilst ensuring our curriculum offer is broad and balanced. The work is based on the learning that was planned for this term that can be delivered remotely; and on guidance published by the DfE.

During the autumn term, the staff worked hard on making plans should remote learning become necessary again and you will have noticed that we have made some enhancements to this provision with an online workbook for children in Scafell and Skiddaw and recorded lessons using Microsoft Teams.

It is really very important that you and your child feel supported and are able to access the learning that has been planned. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions or request for support; and please do give us some feedback about our remote learning offer, both good and constructive, as we are absolutely committed to doing the best we can to enable all our pupils to feel motivated and continue to progress with their learning.

**Staff News:**

Unfortunately, I have to report that Mrs Haslam is still not well enough to return to work at the moment. Thank you for all the lovely messages of support for her speedy recovery. In her absence, Miss Butler and I are planning remote learning for our EYFS pupils.



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### **Children attending School:**

We have two small groups of children attending school each day who have been allocated a place in line with the government's criteria of a critical key worker or a vulnerable child. If your child is attending school, please can I remind you that they may only attend school if they are 100% fit and well. Family group arrival and departure times have been suspended and all children are arriving through our main entrance next to the school office. We are still asking that you follow the established one-way system for access into and out of the school site and do not approach the school building. **It is essential that your child only brings essential items; work completed at home and reading books should not be brought into school.** Please ensure you inform us by 9am if your child is unwell and is unable to attend school on one of their allocated days.

### **Governor News:**

On behalf of everyone at Levens School, I would like to extend a huge warm welcome to our new parent governor, Rachel Miller. Rachel replaces Simon Webb and her expertise and skills will complement our already very strong group of committed governors. We look forward to welcoming her officially at our first remote meeting of the new year very soon.

Another parent governor term of office concludes this March and this will be advertised very shortly amongst the parent body.

### **Statutory testing in primary schools:**

The Prime Minister announced earlier this week that the KS1 and KS2 national curriculum assessments and the year 1 phonics screening check cannot continue as intended due to the further disruption caused by school closures again this term. Instead, it is expected that schools will use teacher assessment to report to parents their child's attainment in their end of year report and to support the transition of our Year 6 pupils to secondary school.

Therefore, the assessment meeting for Year 6 and Year 2 parents that is usually scheduled to take place during the spring term will not take place this year.

In the meantime, please take care and stay safe. Do not hesitate to get in touch with us if we can provide any more support now or in the coming weeks.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday