



Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed an incredibly positive time in school since the Easter holidays.

All the children and staff have really embraced our marathon running challenge by taking to the field or the playground to run 2 miles a week in all weathers! Thank you for supporting our efforts to increase fitness levels and raise lots of money for school funds to support similar activities that will promote our mental wellbeing and physical health. We have already noticed the effects of this activity on overall fitness and stamina, with many children now running the entire mile without stopping to rest or walk.

We are also noticing a difference in the number of children who are reading regularly at home because of our 'Reading for Treasure' challenge that is drawn each Friday. The benefits of reading widely and often with your child are endless, and we thank you for taking the time to support your child's reading.

The beds under our new outdoor classroom are now populated with the plants that each child grew from seeds at home. Every class is taking care to look after their own beds and we are looking forward to seeing these flower over the next few weeks.

We have been so pleased with the engagement of our children in our stamp competition. The children's beautiful designs have now been sent off for judging.

All the staff are already very excited to be taking the children out on adventures at the YMCA immediately after half term. Please ensure the correct paperwork is returned to school before the end of this week to enable your child to be able to take part.

If your child is involved in the residential trip to Patterdale next summer, we also need replies and initial deposits by Friday of this week so that we can secure our booking please.

#### **Reporting Positive Cases to School:**

Please may I remind parents that it is essential that you let us know immediately if your child develops symptoms or tests positive as soon as you are aware. This is incredibly important for us to be able to determine whether any actions are required in school and we are required to report all cases to CCC Public Health team.

If your child develops symptoms they must go for a PCR test. LFD tests are not considered appropriate for primary aged children.

If your child tests positive during the half term holidays please contact Mrs Wadey at [skiddaw@levens.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:skiddaw@levens.cumbria.sch.uk).

#### **Covid19 Updates:**

We are so very pleased that there have been no cases in school since the very start of the year. It is thanks to the relentless efforts of all the staff, your children and your families that have kept everyone as safe as possible. By now you will have read the letter from Colin Cox, Director of Public Health for Cumbria, that asks us to remain cautious over the coming months as further restrictions are lifted and news regarding new variants present in the north west is concerning. There can be no changes to the majority of school procedures until we receive instruction from central government and Cumbria County Council. However, from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June, there will be some minor changes to our daily routines and practices:

- Staff will continue to wear masks in communal areas around school, but not on the playground when greeting or releasing children at the start or end of the school day.

- Staff will resume face-to-face staff meetings in school but maintain social distancing.
- Visits offsite are now permitted.
- Our staggered start and departure times will be revised (see below).
- PE lessons can resume in our hall when weather conditions are too wet to take place outside.
- Children can be collected by other parents as long as the children are in the same class in school. Please always inform us if you wish to have your child collected by another adult.

**All other procedures in school continue until further notice.**

#### **Revised arrival and departure times:**

It is necessary to continue to operate staggered times to arrive and leave school, however, we are very keen to minimise the impact of this arrangement on directed teaching time. It is really important that everyone is able to adhere to these times so that families can continue to socially distance. Staff will endeavour to ensure your child is ready for a prompt collection and I would like to remind parents that it is still not appropriate to linger on our playground for conversations with other parents. **Please leave our school site as soon as you have collected your child/children.**

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Departure</b>
Badgers	8.35am	2.45pm
Foxes	8.45am	2.55pm
Owls	8.55am	3.05pm

Please support these new arrangements to ensure we remain vigilant for the remainder of the summer term.

#### **Scooter and Bicycles:**

From Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June, children are permitted to bring their bike or scooter to school and store it in our outdoor shelter near the dining room during the day. To ensure everyone's safety, children must dismount before coming onto our school playground. The children have already been informed of this in our assembly today and understand that **bikes and scooters must not be ridden in our playground** at any time. This also applies to any pre-school children who might be accompanying parents onto the school site to drop-off and collect. Please support school and your child by following this expectation.

#### **Governor News:**

We are delighted to have Liz Brown joining us as a foundation governor. You may be aware that she has been a volunteer in school for the last couple of years and previously worked as Assistant Headteacher at Staveley Primary School for many years. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in the field of education which will no doubt have a significant impact on the work of our board.

#### **Sharing our Learning:**

As you know, we are always keen to share and celebrate our learning via our website, in newsletters and through Tapestry for our younger pupils. As we did at the end of the autumn term, we want to give our pupils another opportunity to share some of their learning with you over the half term holiday. On Friday, children from year 1 upwards will be bringing home a book to share with you. We hope you enjoy this opportunity at a time when you are not able to come into school to see the children's learning across the curriculum. All books must be returned on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Children in nursery and reception will also be invited to look at Tapestry with a grown up at home!

#### **Class Structure from September 2021:**

It is an exciting time of growth at Levens with the success of our outstanding nursery provision and our brilliant reputation within the local community. As a result, the numbers coming into Reception each year have been more steady and projections for this September and subsequent years continue to look very positive. We are now in a position to move to a four class structure from the start of this autumn term and we are in the final stages of recruiting a full time class teacher to join our brilliant team. Our class organisation from September 2021 will be as follows:

Class 1	Nursery and Reception
Class 2	Years 1+2
Class 3	Years 3+4
Class 4	Years 5+6

Further news about plans for next year will follow after half term.

### **Attendance:**

Thank you for supporting our policy on attendance and punctuality at Levens School. Whole school attendance for the period from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March until the end of this half term is just above our school target of 98%, with no unauthorised absences.

With new freedoms to travel and take holidays, I thought it the right time to remind all parents and families about expectations regarding holidays in term time. Your children have already missed a great proportion of time in school over the last 12months, and whilst there is temptation for us to get away on a much needed holiday, it has never been more crucial that your child is in school learning as much as possible. Regular attendance at school is compulsory and only very exceptional requests for holidays in term time will be authorised. If you decide to take your child out of school for a family holiday and your circumstances are not exceptional, the absence will be referred to the Cumbria County Council Access and Inclusion Officer for attendance, and parents are likely to be presented with a fixed penalty notice of £60 per parent per child. This is a situation that we would all like to avoid, so I urge you to arrange all holidays and excursions out of term time.

At the end of the summer term, all pupils who have 100% attendance during the summer term, will receive a certificate and a small prize in one of our online assemblies.

### **Term Dates 2021-2022:**

#### **Autumn Term 2021**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

(Nursery pupils return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September)

Half term Holiday – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October

**Please note: School is closed for staff training – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

#### **Spring Term 2022**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Half term Holiday – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Summer Term 2022**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Half term Holiday – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

May Bank Holiday – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

### **Class Photographs:**

Our photographer returns this Friday for our class photographs for children in Reception through to Year 6 and for a very special Leavers' photograph. As there are no PE lessons taking place this Friday, all pupils need to be in smart and correct school uniform. Year 6 are required to bring their usual school jumpers/fleeces as well as their new hoodies!

### **Pre-loved Uniform:**

We have a lot of previously owned uniform in school that is sitting in a cupboard unused! As you arrive on Thursday morning there will be tables outside with uniform on that is free for you to take if you think that it can be of use to you. By giving a pre-loved item of uniform a new home you will also be helping the environment! Please make sure that you re-name anything that you take so that we can return it to you should it get lost in school. Please do not bring your old items of uniform to school as our intention is to try to reduce our own school stocks. Why not pass it on to someone who you know may appreciate it?

We look forward to seeing you after the half term holidays and on behalf of everyone here at Levens, we hope you enjoy a fun and relaxing half term break.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday