



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Wednesday 31st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to have everyone back in school since the beginning of March. As well as a return to face to face teaching; we have had fun, the children have reignited their wider friendships; and we have enjoyed a range of experiences across the curriculum.

Every day this week, children from Reception to year 6 are taking part in 'Experience Easter' in our beautiful new shelter outdoors. Here we are reflecting on the different stages of the Easter story and what it means to us in our everyday lives. You can revisit the four stations of 'Experience Easter' by taking a tour of St. John's Church grounds where the four areas of learning have been set up for the community to enjoy: Gethsemane, The courtyard, Golgotha and the Garden Tomb.

This week, the staff have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you either over the phone or via Teams. We hope that these meetings have provided you with valuable updates on your child's time in school since we returned in early March.

On Friday 19th March, we were blown away by the children's incredible creations and outfits for Comic Relief. Lots of photographs can be seen on our website and we raised £70 which is already on its way to making a difference to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Congratulations to Ailsa Stewart who has raised just over £200 by collecting sponsors for her February running challenge and thank you to everyone who supported her efforts.

Well done also to Freddie Willison, who decided to sell his lamb to raise money for NHS charities. If, unlike me, you know the average price of a healthy lamb, you will also know what a wonderful and generous gift Freddie has donated!!

Positive Cases of Covid19 in the Easter Holidays:

It is unfortunate that at the start of the Christmas holidays, I had the awful responsibility of contacting families and members of staff to inform them that they were required to self-isolate due to confirmation of a positive case in school. It is really important, that should your child or any other member of your household test positive during the Easter holidays you inform me directly by emailing me at head@levens.cumbria.sch.uk.

All cases connected to our school have to be reported to the Cumbria PHE Response team to be risk assessed and so that the staff and children that have had direct contact within 48 hours of displaying symptoms can be instructed to self-isolate. Please do let me know immediately if you or your child is displaying symptoms and require a PCR test at any time over the holiday period.

Governor News:

On behalf of the Governors I would like to extend a huge thank you to Alice Sharples who completed her term of office as a parent governor at the end of March. Alice has always been such an engaged, supportive and committed governor here at Levens and I know that she is very much looking forward to continuing to support school in different ways over the coming years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Emma Huddleston who joins us as a parent governor. Emma brings experience of governance to her new role and I know that all the governors at Levens are already looking forward to the contribution she will make to the leadership of our school. Emma has two daughters; Sabina is the eldest and a pupil in Reception.



Dogs on the Playground:

At our last Governor Board meeting in March, the Governors decided that from Monday 19th April, dogs will no longer be permitted access to our playground for health and safety reasons. They may also cause anxiety for some children and are a potential hazard to pupils arriving and leaving the school grounds. This decision is fully supported by the playing fields committee who also prohibit dogs from the playground adjacent to our school grounds and beyond our white gate towards Levens Lane. Please can I request that all dog owners cooperate with this procedure and do not bring your dog onto our site. Thank you in anticipation of your full support.

Remote Learning Survey:

Thank you to everyone who took a few minutes to complete our Remote Learning Survey just before half term.

Your responses were reported to Governors at our last Board meeting and have also been shared with staff who were particularly grateful for the number of extremely supportive and appreciative comments made by so very many of our parents. Thank you.

Here are some of the headlines:

- We received a total of 58 completed surveys.
- 91% of parents said that their child was regularly accessing home learning.
- 76% of our children were working flexibly, rather than sticking to the school day.
- 78% believed their child was getting regular quality feedback from staff.
- 93% of parents felt that there was a good balance between English, maths and the rest of the curriculum.
- 98% of our families engaged in our assemblies and Golden Book readings.
- 86% of our children were engaged in regular physical activity.
- 86% of our parents stated that they thought the provision for remote learning from Levens School was good (12% didn't know).

'Thank you all so much for the hard work you are all doing in this difficult time. We are lucky to be part of such a wonderful school.'

'The quality of work and the way it has been delivered remotely far exceed our expectations.'

A more detailed summary report can be found on our website homepage.

Westmorland County Show Day - Thursday 9th September:

Although the organisers are committed to ensuring this hugely popular local event is able to go ahead this year, there remains considerable uncertainty. In the past, we have organised trips to the show for some year groups, but with so much unknown at the moment, we are considering closing school on this day for staff training. This will also give all our families the opportunity to attend the show without incurring unauthorised absences from school. To compensate for this day, should it go ahead, school will be opening to pupils in Reception to year 6 a day earlier than the Cumbria County Council term dates for Autumn 2021; on Wednesday 1st September. Our Nursery provision however will re-start the following week on Monday 6th September. I expect to be able to make a final decision about this very early on in the summer term.

Summer Term Events:

I am hoping that we will be able to add some events to our summer calendar over the next few weeks. The DfE is just beginning to provide guidance on visits offsite but this is all dependent on the success of the national road map out of lockdown. I have already been exploring options to get all three classes involved in some outdoor education days in June. I hope to be able to get back in touch with some news about these days very soon.

I have also provisionally booked a 3 day/2 night residential at Patterdale Hall for our current year 4 and 5 pupils to take place next June. Further details will be shared in a letter after the Easter holidays.

In the meantime, we are hoping to re-introduce some of our usual events this summer, including school photographs, sports days, a leavers' treat and service for our year 6 pupils either at St. John's or in school. Let's all hope that circumstances permit these, and other plans, to go ahead.

Term Dates 2021-2022:

Autumn Term 2021

Wednesday 1st September – Friday 17th December
(Nursery pupils return on Monday 6th September)
Half term Holiday – Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October

Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 5th January – Friday 1st April
Half term Holiday – Monday 14th February – Friday 18th February

Summer Term 2022

Wednesday 20th April – Wednesday 20th July
Half term Holiday – Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June
May Bank Holiday – Monday 2nd May

Change to PE days for Scafell Pupils:

Please note that Scafell children will be enjoying PE lessons on Mondays and Fridays during the summer term. Arrangements for other classes remain unchanged.

Support with mental health and online learning:

Just a quick reminder that our website has a wealth of resources and information to support wellbeing and home learning for you and your child. These include: teacher recommended websites; links to useful government guidance and support; helplines and support groups, both national and local. These can all be found by following the red text on our homepage: **Covid19 Updates** that takes you to two designated pages on this subject: Health and Wellbeing & Useful Documents. A link to this page can also be found [here](#).

In the parent section of our website, we also have lots of information about keeping our children safe online.

Easter Seed Challenge:

Tomorrow, every child in school will be bringing home a biodegradable planting pot and seeds to grow at home. Later in the summer term, we will be asking everyone to bring back their plants to put into the beds of our new sheltered area at the front of school.

Reminder: School closes between 1.45pm and 2.15pm this Thursday (dependant on your family group). YoYo is available until 4pm, so if you require a place for your child that is not already booked, please email Mrs Coker at office@levens.cumbria/sch.uk without delay.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 19th April.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday