



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Friday 18th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you to everyone for the part you are all playing in keeping our school fully open, whilst other local schools have faced partial closure. It is really critical that we remain vigilant throughout the remainder of this term to ensure local rates remain low and school can stay fully open.

I had hoped that we may have been able to review and relax some more of our Covid measures as we approach the final weeks of the year, but instead, and as instructed by our local authority, we must continue with all our restrictions within school. Staff continue to follow all our Covid safe procedures with the utmost care and attention on a daily basis. Meetings for our new Reception and Nursery starters are being held remotely via Teams, our forthcoming sports events will now take place as in-school events without a parent audience and our Leavers' Service will now take place in our school grounds rather than at St. John's Church, although we do hope to be able to have a small representation of parents at this special service.

We have, however, have been able to enjoy three incredibly successful class visits to YMCA at Lakeside and all the children enjoyed these immensely! We have already provisionally booked similar visits for next June and desperately need funds to continue to support these worthwhile experiences as our sports funding will revert to being used to support extra-curricular activities and community sporting events. We need everyone to continue to collect sponsors for our *Marathon Challenge* as this money will be used to finance our YMCA visits next year. Thank you for your support.

Class teachers are also planning smaller, low-key visits to our wildlife area before the end of term for some forest schools-type activities. This year our 10 year six leavers will be able to enjoy a lovely treat and will have a tea prepared for them by our year 5 Levens Tea Club.

This term we have had a huge focus on thinking about the way we interact with each other; the way we greet each other in the mornings as we come into school; and the ways in which we show kindness and consideration for others. The children are always so positive, but we have noticed a shift in the way that they engage with us in lovely conversations as they come in each morning – it starts everybody's day in the best possible way.

Changes to Covid Risk Assessments:

Requirements and procedures in school and our community are constantly changing and we are receiving new directives from Public Health all the time.

One major difference is that masks are now advised for all staff in classrooms as well as communal areas in both primary as well as secondary settings. Some staff may choose to wear masks when they are teaching, as well as all staff continuing to wear masks when moving around school in communal areas.

We are also being advised that PH North West are now asking close contacts of positive cases to NOT get a PCR test during their isolation period unless they develop symptoms. This is a turnaround from the advice we sent home in the last week.

Arriving and leaving School:

Thank you for continuing to adhere to the staggered times for arriving and leaving school. As the 10minute window arrival time has now been terminated, please continue to arrive at your allotted time. Please also ensure your child arrives at school **no later than 8.55am when our registration period closes and that all children are collected from our playground at their set time which should be no later than 3.05pm.**



Pupils arriving at school after 8.55am will need to come into school through our main door and may receive a late mark in the register.

If you are collecting a child who is in a different family group to your own child, please wait on the playground, ensuring you are socially distancing from other parents, until you have been able to collect children from other family groups. Thank you for your cooperation with these procedures.

Staff News:

We are very excited to be welcoming Miss Pamela Robinson to our amazing team from September 2021. Miss Robinson is currently Key Stage One leader and year 2 teacher at an academy in Bradford. She has already demonstrated to us her wide-ranging expertise and skills as an infant practitioner and brings many years of experience to her new role as Year 1 + 2 class teacher here at Levens. Pamela will be visiting school over the next few weeks and these visits will include opportunities to meet her new class and to hear about the pupils from their current class teacher. She is due to relocate with her family back to the South Lakes area over the summer holidays. I am sure you will want to join with me in wishing her success in her move and a very warm welcome to our Levens community.

We are also very sorry to be saying goodbye to Miss Eastham who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Miss Eastham has contributed so much throughout a very challenging year and we are hugely grateful for the difference she has made to the welfare, progress and attainment of our year 1 pupils.

Unfortunately, it is with much sadness that I report to parents that our school cook, Helen, will be leaving us before the end of term to begin new ventures elsewhere. Helen has been in charge of the provision and service of our hot meals for many years and in recent times, moved to cooking our meals onsite. Orian, our school meal providers, will be sourcing Helen’s replacement, if you think you know someone who might be interested in this lovely post, please contact school and we can give a contact number.

Class Structure September 2021:

Class 1	Reception and Nursery	Mrs Haslam
Class 2	Year 1 + 2	Miss Robinson
Class 3	Year 3+4	Mrs Wadey
Class 4	Years 5+6	Mr Dean and Mrs Farraday

On Wednesday 7th July, pupils across school will be able to spend some time interacting with their new teacher and in their new classroom.

We are receiving revised guidance from our feeder high schools since the announcements this week, please check that you have the most up to date information regarding year 6 transition events that are likely to move to remote meetings only.

PE:

As we are now well out of the winter months where warmer PE kit was required, we have now returned to an expectation that all pupils wear the correct PE kit in school on their allocated PE days. This is our pale blue PE t-shirt and hoodie; black or dark blue plain shorts. Stud earrings should be removed and long hair must be tied up.

We hope to return to our usual procedures of getting changed for PE in school from September but we will continue to come to school in PE kit for the remainder of this term.

We are very excited to be able to return to swimming lessons for all our junior children in the autumn. You should have already received information about the arrangements for swimming.

Diary Dates:

Although our calendar does not look as busy as usual at this time of year, it is always a good idea to keep an eye on our interactive calendar on our school website.

Wednesday 23 rd June	The Book Bus arrives! Please check at home for any books belonging to the library service.
Wednesday 30 th June	Scafell Rugby Festival at Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club.
Monday 5 th July	Leavers' Treat – letter to follow.
Wednesday 7 th July	Levens Transition Day – all pupils will spend some time with their new class teacher if they are moving up in September.
Friday 9 th July	End of Year Reports to all parents .
Monday 12 th July	New Reception starters taster morning for children not already attending our Nursery setting
Monday 12 th July	Leavers' Tea prepared by Year 5 Tea Club – details to follow.
Tuesday 13 th July	I.Wise STEM workshops for Scafell and Skiddaw Classes
Thursday 15 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Service in our school grounds – details to follow.
Friday 16 th July	School closes for summer holidays between 1.45pm and 2.05pm depending on your family group.
Wednesday 1 st September	School reopens for autumn term for all pupils.

End of Year Reports:

This year we have a return to full reports rather than our shortened reports that were produced at the end of last year.

Class teachers are currently very busy writing your child's end of year report. These will be brought home by your child on Friday 9th July. If your child is in Nursery and doesn't attend school on that day, it will be brought home the following week.

Attendance:

This is a very polite reminder that attendance at school is compulsory and that holidays should not be taken in term time.

Please refer to the relevant section of our current Attendance Policy that can be found on our website by following this link: [Attendance-policy-Dec-2020.pdf \(levens.cumbria.sch.uk\)](https://www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk/Attendance-policy-Dec-2020.pdf)

The headteacher is not permitted to grant leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. The application must be made at least seven days prior to the proposed absence and must be requested in writing using the 'Parent Request for Absence' form available from the school office and published on our school website.

All unauthorised absences, including holidays that have not been sanctioned by the headteacher, are accumulated and parents who fail to ensure regular attendance of their children at school can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The amount of £60 (per parent per child) if paid within 21 days and £120 (per parent per child) if paid between 21 and 28 days. Failure to pay a Penalty Notice will result in prosecution, except in limited circumstances.

Curriculum books:

We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to see some of your child's work recently and thank you for returning this promptly.

We are about to share pupils' books from previous years from year 2 upwards. These books are for your child/children to keep and are not expected back in school. Please can your child bring in a bag-for-life or plastic bag to transport books home over the next few weeks and please note – we seem to have accumulated a lot of books and therefore have a lot of books to distribute.

Summer Work Projects:

Over the summer holidays we are having some enhancements to our site to ensure our school is as secure as possible. This includes a new porch to be built onto the front of our school adjacent to the office and a new gate with an intercom entry system at our main entrance.

We have been working to save funds for these two essential elements of improved security for some time and I am so pleased that we are now able to commission this work to go ahead ready for September.

FOLS:

Friends of Levens School are a group of dedicated family members who have worked hard over many years to raise funds and organise events to support our school and benefit all our pupils. The work of FOLS has been very limited over the last year and some of our most dedicated and enthusiastic parents will not have children in our school after this year. We would like to publicly thank those who will be leaving the committee for their dedication to fundraising and their generosity with their time and skills, it is really appreciated and has resulted in many additional opportunities for our children. We are therefore looking for new recruits to join our committee in the autumn term. It is not a huge commitment and is a lovely way to get to know other parents, support our school and be involved in organising some very wonderful community events. Look out for more news in the autumn term.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Farraday".

Jane Farraday