

Levens CE School

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All



Welcome to Reception 2021



Dear Parents,

On behalf of everyone within our school community, may I welcome you to our school.

Levens CE School is a happy, safe and inspiring place to grow and learn, where we enjoy the learning experiences each new day brings. Everyone is supported and nurtured through our distinctively Christian ethos and shared Christian values.

It is our aim to develop and sustain a life-long love of learning by building for our future in a diverse and ever-changing world. Rich and wide-ranging experiences enable everyone in school to be creative and develop the personal skills required to be responsible, confident and considerate; taking pride in all that we do.

Starting school is an extremely exciting time for our children and marks a significant milestone in your child's development. Here at Levens, we endeavour to ensure your child's first experiences of school are positive so that we can lay the foundations for future learning in an environment where your child feels excited about coming to school each day; feels safe; and can build healthy new relationships with adults and their peers.

With a focus on ensuring high standards in reading, writing and maths; we deliver a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to the 21st century. Our Christian ethos pervades every aspect of school; supporting the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all pupils.

Relationships are at the heart of the school and our community. Our polite, responsible and enthusiastic pupils are inspired by committed, hardworking staff and school is very well supported by a dedicated governing body. Our parents are another very important part of the team; supporting their child's learning and the work of school in so many ways.

We are passionate about our school and our pupils; striving to empower their young minds to follow their dreams, be happy and embrace challenge.

This brochure just gives a flavour of what Levens has to offer. For further information why not take a look at our website at www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk or call the school office to arrange a visit. I would welcome the opportunity to take you on a tour of our school.

Jane Farraday
Headteacher



Starting Reception

During the summer term prior to your child starting Reception, we like to offer many opportunities for your child to begin their introduction to school. These include our home visit arrangements, classroom sessions and whole school events like our sports day. This will enable your child to meet the staff; be introduced to the school and classroom environment; and begin to learn routines and school expectations. During the current difficult circumstances due to Covid19, our arrangements for transition will need to be revised this year. Further details will be shared as soon as possible.

If your child has attended alternative nursery provision to Levens, staff in school prepare for your child's start by visiting your child in their nursery setting and meeting with your child's key worker. Again, this may not be possible this year, although we would ensure there is opportunity to talk to staff at your child's nursery prior to their start at Levens.

Please note that if your child already attends Levens Nursery, there will no requirement for a home visit and your child will not need to attend additional classroom sessions.

September 2021

The Autumn term begins for all children on Wednesday 1st September. The Reception children will start school through a staggered induction period:

Wednesday 1st September - Morning only 8.45am - 11.45am

Thursday 2nd September – 8.45am until 1.15pm

Friday 3rd September onwards – all day

Our Classroom

The classroom is organised into different areas of learning which are directly linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage. There are opportunities for mark making, reading and writing, practical, hands on maths, creative and malleable areas as well as an open-ended role-play resources. These areas help to develop children's social and emotional development, communication and language skills and physical development as well as reading, writing and maths. We deliver a balance of teacher led activities which run alongside independent learning opportunities within the classroom.

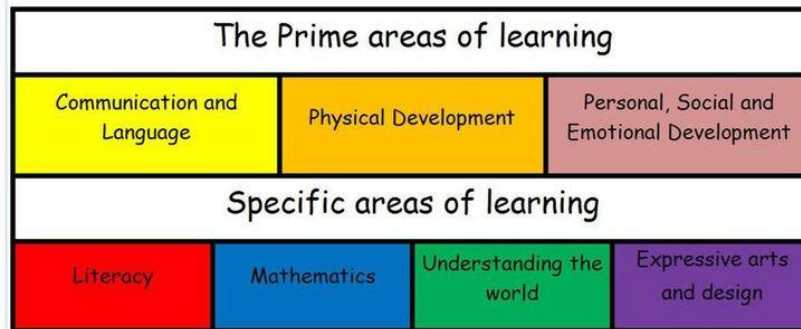
We also have a beautiful outdoor area where the children have 'free flow' access at times during the day. The outdoors plays an important role in developing children's physical, critical thinking, creative and problem-solving skills.



Learning

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework sets the standard for development, learning and care for all children from birth to the end of the Reception year. Activities in the Reception year will be planned within the areas of learning outlined within the Framework and around the interests and needs of individual children to develop their skills and understanding by learning through the playful spirit within our Foundation Stage.

The framework is divided into Prime and Specific areas of learning:



We capture the children's learning through the use of 'Tapestry' – an online learning journal. Tapestry is used to document children's 'wow' moments in order to share them with parents and carers and is also used to provide them with a regular overview of learning activities throughout the week.

Children also have phonics and maths jotters in order to record their adult-led and independent learning.

There are opportunities throughout the year when you will be able to formally meet with the class teacher, see your child's work and discuss their learning and progress. During the summer term, you will receive your child's End of Year Report. Should you need to discuss your child's learning and development at any other times in the year, then please let us know; we pride ourselves on being approachable, supportive and helpful.

Children with Special Education Needs

At Levens CE School we provide equality for all children, including those identified as having any additional needs. Our setting, our curriculum and the expertise of our staff ensures all children breakdown any barriers to learning in order to access a rich and broad curriculum developing skills and their understanding to make good progress.

Our Ofsted Inspection November 2017 highlighted parents support for school and particularly, how *'teachers use their special skills' to draw out highly positive attitudes from their children towards their school work*.

More information about provision for children with SEND can be found on our website or by talking to our SEND lead, Mrs Helen Haslam or the Headteacher, Mrs Jane Farraday.



The School Day

Although we are currently continuing to arrive and leave school in family groups to ensure social distancing, our school day usually begins at 8.45am and ends at 3pm for all pupils. Further details about arrival and departure times will be shared as soon as possible ahead of the autumn term.

Arriving in school in the mornings

Children enter school through the Bowfell gate to the right of the main school entrance each morning where they will be met by a member of the Bowfell team.

The children in Reception will be encouraged to develop their independence through a range of activities including self-registering and beginning a morning task independently. These routines ensure the children are able to enter a calm and quiet classroom and can settle quickly setting the right tone for learning throughout the rest of the day.

Infant Fruit and Snack

All children are offered a piece of fruit or vegetable daily and a drink of milk for a morning snack as part of our healthy eating plan. The fruit is free for all infant children. Milk is free for your child until the term after their 5th birthday.

This time is used for socialising with all of Bowfell Class; the children are encouraged to try new foods, and learn from each other. The adults join in, modelling behaviour and taking time to chat to the children and reflect on their learning experiences.

Assemblies and Collective Worship

Each day, all the children in school engage in worship or assembly time. These special times together as a school or class, enable us to explore our Christian Values, hear Bible Stories, celebrate our achievements and learn more about our world.

In usual circumstances, on Fridays we have a very special Celebration Assembly when each class will share some of their learning for the week and when we read out names of children who have been mentioned in our Golden Book for something incredible. We like to invite parents to these assemblies on regular occasions through our online website calendar, through newsletters, email and via text messages. Adaptations may have to be made when government restrictions are in place.



Lunchtimes

During this time your child will enjoy a free infant school meal. Daily menus are available to view on the school website. Your child will make their selection each morning with their class teacher, it is useful to discuss the menu for the following day with your child the evening before and make a choice together. The children will enjoy their lunch in our dining hall. Here, staff are always present to ensure the children get enough to eat and drink; learn the routines of our dining hall systems; and enjoy their lunchtime experience. We can readily manage all special dietary requirements and would appreciate early notification so that we can make any necessary preparations or modifications.

Hometime

School ends at 3pm each day, any changes that need to be made to this due to government restrictions and to facilitate staggering of exit arrangements, will be advised as soon as possible. Please collect your child outside the front door in the playground where a member of the Bowfell team will meet you. By September 2021, we anticipate that this might be an opportunity to talk to staff; sometimes a member of staff may wish to talk to you briefly to share something from the day or pass on important information. If someone different is collecting your child please ensure we have been informed, as keeping your child safe is our top priority. The children are taught from day one that they are not permitted to leave the adult in charge to go to parents until they are told to by a member of staff. This is so we are able to ensure we see each child safely delivered to their appropriate adult.

Safeguarding

'Safeguarding pupils is a high priority and a strength of the school. You and the staff have established a culture of vigilance in the school. You know your community and pupils well, and all staff understand that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.' Ofsted November 2017.

At our school, the health and safety of all children is of paramount importance. Parents send their children to school each day with the expectation that school provides a secure environment in which their children can flourish.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Farraday, in her absence, the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Wadey. Should you have any concerns about the welfare of any children in school, please let us know immediately.

At Levens School we will ensure everything possible is undertaken to safeguard the welfare of all children in our care. If the school has a reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to harm, ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff will take appropriate action.



Your Child's Health

Sometimes children need prescription medication. In some circumstances, and when the medication timing necessitates that a dose is given during the school day, please speak to Mrs Coker in the office who will be able to help you complete the necessary paperwork that will allow us to administer medicine in school. If your child is asthmatic and needs an inhaler in school during the day, please ensure we are promptly informed as we require certain paperwork completing.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform us by either telephoning the office between 8.30am and 9am or emailing Mrs Coker at office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk on the first day of your child's absence.

During your child's first year, the School Medical Service will carry out various checks on your child's growth and development. You will be informed of these checks in advance.

If your child becomes unwell at school or has an accident that may require hospital treatment we would contact you immediately using the contact details you have provided for school. It is a statutory requirement that school has at least two emergency contact details for every pupil in school. We should also be provided with a third contact who does not live in the family home, this is often a grandparent or close family friend.

Children who have received any first aid in school will receive a 'First Aid' or occasionally a specific 'Head Bump' letter informing parents of details.

Communication with School

At Levens CE School, we understand that developing and maintaining strong links with parents is essential to our children's learning and development throughout their education. Therefore, it is essential that you feel welcome in school and able to talk to us or ask us questions as they arise.

There are several ways to keep in touch with what's happening in school. Our website includes a 'blog' where your child's experiences in and out of school are posted regularly, alongside photographs. The website also has a calendar providing early notification of forthcoming events. In the pupils section of the website, Bowfell has its own class page with up to date information about curriculum and learning.

Information is also shared via email and the school text alert system. The latter is useful for last minute changes to arrangements and useful reminders. Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible. We are only able to have one family mobile number linked to the text system, so please ensure that you provide us with your preferred contact number and that you have the capacity to pass on any messages to those collecting your child that day. Newsletters are distributed at least once every month and are also published on the website. Other letters are also sent home via book bags for specific events or information, sometimes requiring reply slips and payments. These can be sent back into school with your child and placed in the black box positioned next to the children's water bottles.

Bowfell also has its very own Instagram page which you can follow by searching [levenseyfsy1](#). Please note that this page doesn't publish photographs of pupils. It documents different learning opportunities and activities which parents and carers might like to see.

School Uniform

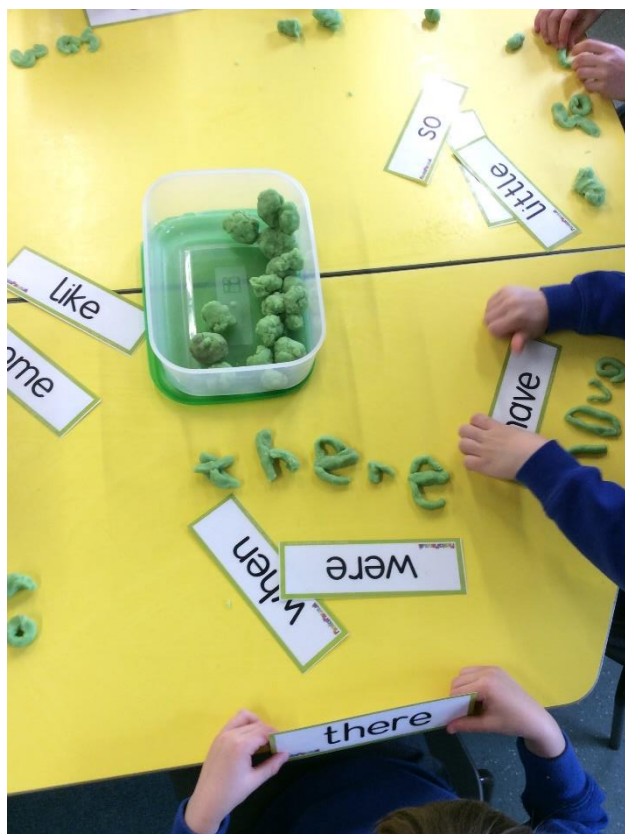
Our uniform is a royal blue sweatshirt, fleece or cardigan with a white polo shirt. Both girls and boys may choose to wear grey trousers or a grey skirt, pinafore dress or blue gingham dress. All pupils should wear black shoes and bring an appropriate school coat every day. Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly named so that they can be reunited with owners easily.

Our school PE kit consists of black shorts; a pale blue t-shirt with the school logo; a pale blue hooded top with the school logo; black PE pumps and trainers. Please also include a pair of socks. For PE outside the children may wear jogging trousers in colder weather. Your child will also need a book bag. School policy on uniform does not permit the wearing of jewellery or nail polish. Long hair should always be tied up and stud earrings removed on PE days.

All items are obtainable from our suppliers, Coniston Corporate via the link on the school website where a full order form is available. Collated items are then received in school and sent home as soon as possible. Payment is made online and we recommend that you please order in good time.

The table below gives current costs for our most popular items:

Sweatshirt	£9.75
Cardigan	£10.80
Fleece jacket	£14.00
Book bag	£5.50
School PE kit (t shirt, shorts, bag)	£12.50 (replacement items can be bought separately)
School PE hoodie	From £9.75



Meet the team



Helen Haslam – EYFS
Class Teacher



Lauren Butler – Teaching
Assistant



Martine Harwood -
Teaching Assistant

Thank you for taking the time to read about our arrangements for your child starting school. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require any further information.

School Contact Information

Address:

Levens CE School
Church Road
Levens
Kendal
Cumbria
LA8 8PU

Telephone: 015395 60694

Email: office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk

Website: www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk



