



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Tuesday 31st August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful to be writing to you at the end of the summer holidays knowing that this term will feel much more like 'normal' times at Levens School. I hope that all our families have enjoyed a healthy, happy and relaxing summer and that you and your child/children feel positive about returning to school on Wednesday. As well as those returning, we have 15 new starters in Reception again this year; and also children beginning their Levens adventure, either in main school or in our Nursery. On behalf of everyone at Levens, a very warm welcome to all our new families and pupils.

For those new to school, please do take time to refresh yourselves with our routines and processes via the booklets on our admission pages, and please get in touch if you have any remaining queries, we are very keen to ensure that the start of the journey is as smooth and worry-free as possible.

We have had several changes made to the building over the summer holidays including a beautiful new porch at the front of our school. This provides some additional security for our safety and is no longer an entrance that will be used by children at the start of the school day or during breaks and lunchtimes. Extra security to our school site has also been provided with a new gate at our main entrance.

Staff News:

As you already know, we are very excited to be welcoming Miss Robinson who is taking the lead in our year 1+2 class this year.

We are also very excited that Mrs Sam Court will be returning to support learning in our early years and infant classrooms this term; as well as getting reunited with all the children during lunchtimes. Mrs Court is already known to all the children and was such a fantastic addition to the Levens team during the summer term. She is a very experienced, compassionate and skilled teaching assistant; and we are very excited that she is extending her commitment to Levens School into this academic year.

We are also welcoming our new school cook to school on Wednesday. Alex Hutt, mum of Isla and Layla, starts her new role in our kitchen next week. She will be spending lots of time getting to know all the children over the next few weeks and she is very excited about her new role!

Covid 19 Updates:

We are now in the final stages of our risk assessment process following updated Covid guidance from both the DfE and the Health and Safety team at Cumbria County Council. As outlined to you briefly in our July newsletter, there are so many things that we are now able to do that have been restricted for what seems such an incredibly long period of time. We no longer require children to be separated in different bubbles, so the children will be able to play out together on our playground. I believe this will have such a positive impact on pupil wellbeing. I am particularly excited to resume whole-school assemblies together in our hall - our first assembly on Wednesday morning will feel incredibly special.

During the autumn term, we will be continuing to encourage our pupils to wash their hands regularly; we will be practising good respiratory hygiene procedures; regularly touched surfaces and toilets will be cleaned throughout the day; and all our spaces will remain well ventilated. Staff will be continuing to undertake LFD testing twice a week until the end of September when this practice is to be reviewed by PHE.

Coming to school:

On the first day of the new term, Wednesday 1st September, you and your children can arrive onto the school site through either entrance - from the playing fields or the main entrance on Church Road - no earlier than **8.35am** as our staggered starts and ends to the day are no longer necessary. Here you will say your goodbyes and school staff will be there to greet your children and escort them into the school building either via Scaffell's direct door or through Bowfell's side gate depending on their class. Please

ensure the area by Bowfell's gate is not blocked as the majority of pupils come this way to get into school.

We really value our children arriving promptly as every child, even those in Nursery, have a morning task to complete as soon as they get into the classroom. This enables class teachers to make the most of learning time and sets the right tone for the rest of the day. We aim to have everyone in their classroom engaged in activities by 8.50am every morning.

If your child has a letter, reply slip or a payment to bring into school, they are expected to bring this in to their classroom. Each class has a box where things for the office are placed each morning. Class teachers will be encouraging your child to use this system and be as independent as possible!

Our registration period ends at 8.50am. Children who arrive after this time will receive a late mark in the register and will need to report to the office at the main entrance.

At the end of the day, your child will be brought out onto the playground by their class teacher or a teaching assistant at **3pm** as there is no longer a collection window. This is a good opportunity to catch up with school staff with any questions or information you need to share. Sometimes staff may also approach you with some important information from the day – for example a first aid report.

Expectations on Uniform:

Please ensure that all uniform is named – it is so much easier for us to re-unite lost property.

Pupils from Reception through to year 6 are expected to wear grey or black shorts, skirts or trousers; white or pale blue polo shirts; with a Levens sweater, cardigan or fleece. Pupils should wear sensible school shoes or ankle boots, not trainers, and have a coat in school every day.

Apart from pupils in Reception, PE kits should be kept in school so that children can change into appropriate kits on their PE days. This should be a pair of pumps or trainers, and the official Levens PE kit of black shorts or plain black joggers, a Levens pale blue PE t-shirt and PE hoodie.

Pupils are not permitted to wear jewellery, with the exception of stud earrings, but these must be removed for swimming and for PE lessons.

Class information:

Our class pages are currently being updated with information for the autumn term. This includes the class newsletters with information about curriculum, PE days and homework. Please take a look next week to ensure you are updated with everything you need to know ahead of the start of term.

If you need to get in touch with us, please remember that our class email addresses have now changed. We aim to get back in touch with you within 48hours, but please do not expect staff to email you at the weekend or in the evenings.

Reporting absence from school:

If your child is ill and not attending school, please contact the school office directly by emailing Mrs Coker on office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk no later than 9am on the first day of absence. The school office does not open until 8.30am so if you try to call before this time, you are unlikely to have your call answered.

YoYo After School Care:

Our after school club runs from Monday to Thursday from 3pm until 5.15pm and is open to children from Reception through to Year 6. If you require regular child care or just the occasional session, please do contact Mrs Coker who can advise you on how to make the necessary arrangements. There is also information about YoYo on our school website.

Class Drop-ins:

We will be welcoming parents into school on Wednesday 8th September from 3pm to meet informally with your child's classteacher in your child's classroom.

Although we are very keen to have parents back in school, we want to remain extremely cautious and would request that you only come into school if you are 100% fit and well; and have not been in close

contact with anyone who may have Covid. If possible, please undertake a LFD test before coming to school.

Marathon Running challenge:

We are incredibly overwhelmed with the support we have had for our summer Marathon Challenge. Thank you for encouraging and supporting your child to complete this amazing achievement successfully. You have raised an incredible £2129.70 so far towards outdoor adventure days at YMCA Lakeside in the summer term.

Attendance:

This is a very polite reminder that attendance at school is compulsory and that holidays should not be taken in term time. All requests for holidays will be unauthorised and referred to the Access and Inclusion Office for Attendance at Cumbria County Council. If you choose to take your child out of school in term time you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £60 per parent per child.

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)

Absence for other reasons, such as medical appointments, should be advised via email to the school office ahead of the date.

Class Structure September 2021:

Here is a reminder of our class structure and contact details for the new school year:

class	year groups	location	email address	class teacher
Class 1	Reception & Nursery	Bowfell	Class1@levens.cumbria.sch.uk	Mrs Haslam
Class 2	Years 1+2	Skiddaw	Class2@levens.cumbria.sch.uk	Miss Robinson
Class 3	Years 3+4	Helvellyn	Class3@levens.cumbria.sch.uk	Mrs Wadey
Class 4	Years 5+6	Scafell	Class4@levens.cumbria.sch.uk	Mr Dean and Mrs Farraday

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 1 st September	School reopens for autumn term for all pupils – Reception-Year 6. Doors open at 8.35am and lessons commence at 8.50am.
Monday 6 th September	Nursery provision starts this week
Wednesday 8 th September	School Swimming commences for Classes 3 and 4
Wednesday 8 th September	Class drop-ins. An opportunity to come into school, meet your child's class teacher informally and visit their classroom, 3-3.45pm
Thursday 9th September	School closed for staff training Westmorland County Show
Monday 13 th September	Arts Week – all pupils working with local artist Sophie Martin on a collaborative mural on the theme of 'Community'.
Thursday 16 th September	Football Club with Rob from Westmorland FA recommences

Extra Bank Holiday due to Queen's Platinum Jubilee:

There is an additional bank holiday on Friday 3rd June 2022. As this date falls in our summer term half-term break, schools have been instructed to take this date at another time in the school year. As a result we will close for the summer holidays on Tuesday 19th July at 2pm. Please note this is a day earlier than Cumbria's published term dates for 2021-22.

Thank you for taking the time to read the first newsletter of the new school year. We very much look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday. Enjoy the bank holiday weekend and see you very soon. With my very best wishes

Farraday