



# LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been the most challenging of starts to our new school year and I must begin by extending my huge thanks and appreciation to all the staff at school. I cannot even begin to put into words what a typical day at Levens has looked like this half term with everyone doing multiple roles to cover a lot of staff absence; support separate bubble arrangements; provide home learning whilst teaching fulltime; and adapt once again to different ways of working with changes to guidance and procedures bombarding us almost daily. They have ensured the children have been learning, whether at home or in school; are happy; feel safe and are enjoying school! As always, they have been incredible!

### **Covid Updates:**

I am very pleased to share that at the time of writing we have had no further cases in school. If this continues, we will return to delivering music lessons and our YoYo provision from next Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Gymnastics will restart on Thursday for our upper juniors and running club will return on Friday.

Thank you for all that you have done to protect our school and our families by taking your children for PCR tests and ensuring you are keeping us updated when your child has become unwell and undertaken LFD testing. It is massively appreciated.

### **Harvest and Celebration Assembly:**

We were so disappointed that we had to postpone our Harvest Service. We will be holding our special thanksgiving service in school on Monday either virtually using TEAMS or in the school hall. The children have been asked to bring in items listed on our previous Harvest letter and School Council will be delivering the goods to the foodbank after half term. We have taken the difficult decision not to invite parents to this event.

We are hoping that our Celebration Assembly at 9am on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October will be able to take place as planned. This is for parents of children in Class 1 and Class 2 only. Please wait on our playground and enter via our main entrance from 8.55am. We would also request that parents sanitise hands on entry, sign in and wear a mask when moving through our school.

### **Arts Week:**

Thanks to local artist Sophie Martin for our wonderful week of observational drawings of our school environment and out in the village. Sophie is now combining the children's work with her own to create a large mural in our dining hall. More news on this will follow soon.

### **Keeping our children safe when arriving and leaving school:**

You may have noticed that we have had some representation from our local council and the community police officer at the start and end of the school days in the last few weeks. Leaders in school continue to try to engage Highways and Active Ways to Schools to make routes to school safer for our families.

In the meantime, please can we remind parents that you should not be parking across or close to the area around Levens Playing Fields gates as this obstructs vision up and down Levens Lane for those seeking to cross the road safely with their young children. Parents should also avoid mounting kerbs and parking or turning in our neighbours drives. If you can, park further away from school and walk.

### **Punctuality:**

This is a reminder that all our pupils should be settled in their classrooms ready to learn by 8.50am every morning. Children who arrive on our school site at 8.50am are receiving late marks because they are not in the classroom when the register is taken. Please aim to arrive at school **no later than 8.45am** to ensure your child does not receive a late mark and are ready to start their learning promptly.

### **FOLS:**

We are very keen to recruit any parents or family members who are interested in getting involved in fundraising for our school this year. Our first meeting will be in the school dining hall at 4pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November when we will formulate our new committee and make plans for some Christmas fundraising events.

Please come along if you feel you can contribute to this group in any small way – we would love your input and your support.

### **Exciting News:**

The school has seen a significant rise in pupil numbers over recent years – from 60 in 2017 to 95 at the start of autumn 2021. This is due to a range of factors including the extension of our catchment area with the closure of Heversham Primary; the success and reputation of our Nursery provision in our local community; and of course the development of many new homes in the village.

As a result, we have been able to move to a 4 mixed-age class structure this year. However, our smallest classroom, currently the home of Class 3, will not be large enough to accommodate the increasing numbers of pupils in each cohort coming through school. Following several months of drafting together proposals and meeting with Cumbria County Council leaders, we are overjoyed to be able to inform you that we have been advised that CCC will be leading and funding the development of a new classroom, toilets and cloakroom facilities for our growing school.

It is not so long ago that we secured local authority support in providing our fantastic new dining room and kitchen; so it is incredible that we have now achieved their support for a much bigger project, particularly in such financially challenging times. Mrs Coker, our School Business Manager, has again been the driving force in achieving this and I am so incredibly grateful for her passion and determination to improve our school resources and her expertise in strategic planning.

I very much look forward to updating parents and families with further news when I am able.

### **Diary Dates:**

Please do keep referring back to our online calendar to keep updated on forthcoming events. These are of course subject to change and are dependent on the number of positive cases in school. A link to the calendar can be found [here](#).

**School closes at 3pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November from 8.35am.

On behalf of everyone at Levens, we wish you are happy, healthy and relaxing half term break.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday