



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you on behalf of the Governors at Levens CE School. Thank you to everyone who took time to complete a survey in July this year. We are overwhelmed by the very positive view parents have of school demonstrated in the responses to the twelve questions below; as well as the many additional positive comments.

Following our meeting in September, Governors are now able to share the outcomes:

A total of 27 survey were returned to school. 1 person = 3.7%

		Strongly Agree	Agree	disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1	My child is happy at this school.	81%	19%			
2	My child feels safe at this school.	78%	22%			
3	My child makes good progress at this school.	74%	26%			
4	My child is well looked after at this school.	78%	22%			
5	My child is taught well at this school.	74%	26%			
6	My child receives appropriate homework for this age.	44%	44%			11%
7	This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	63%	30%			7%
8	The school deals effectively bullying.	33%	26%			41%
9	The school is well led and managed.	78%	19%			3.7%
10	This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	74%	15%			11%
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	67%	21%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%
12	Would you recommend this school to another parent?	70%	30%			

Many Parents very kindly commented on many different aspects that they felt were strengths of the school. Some of these included: our warm, friendly atmosphere; the hardworking and expert staff team; that their child/children feel happy, safe and enjoy school; that we provide good pastoral care; communication between home and school is strong; behaviour and relationships are positive.



Parents also offered ideas about what we might do better and these have been discussed by both staff and governors. Parents will be pleased to know that many of the areas were already in the process of being considered or actioned.

Please find below Governors' responses to some of the questions and suggestions:

School Trips: Where possible, staff will endeavour to ensure there is more notice for trips in future.

Homework: Staff are working together to develop a homework policy so that parents are clear about the purpose of homework; expectations in different year groups; and how it supports learning. This is due to be published later this term.

Reporting to Parents: All staff are keen to engage positively with parents and keep you informed of your child's learning. If you have any questions about your child's progress, have any concerns, or would like an update at any time during the academic year, then please let staff know as they are keen to keep you informed and work closely with you in supporting your child's progress and learning.

Online Payment system: You may be aware that some schools offer an online payment system for dinners, music tuition and trips etc. As we are a county council school, there is a significant annual cost for the software required to offer this service, and for a small school like ours, this cost can be prohibitive. We are therefore reluctant to burden ourselves financially when the school budget can be spent better elsewhere. Therefore, Governors have decided not to pursue this payment scheme at the present time.

Outdoor shelter + Bike Shed: FOLS have already started fundraising for an outdoor shelter. We are keen to install an area of shade for our pupils on the playground and a safe, sheltered place to store bikes and scooters during the school day. School has also started the process of receiving quotes for both enhancements; however sufficient funds have not yet been secured.

YoYo on Fridays and Breakfast Club: We do understand that a small number of parents are interested, however, Governors would like to remind parents that without sufficient pupils we cannot extend our before or after school care. Please let us know if this is something you are prepared to commit to on a regular basis as we are constantly reviewing this possibility.

Attendance: Governors would like to signpost parents to our Attendance Policy and 'Parent Request for Absence' form both of which were revised following a register audit by the county council last year. These documents are published on our website. Absence in term time cannot be authorised unless the reasons for the absence meet the exceptional criteria.

At our meeting last week, Governors decided that absence from school to attend the Westmorland County Show does not meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances, unless your child is *directly involved* in an event. Children who are not directly involved and are absent from school to attend the Show will be marked in the register as unauthorised. Further guidance will follow in the summer term 2020, and in all cases absence must be requested formally; at least seven days ahead of the event.

Traffic outside School: School has worked relentlessly with the highways department and local community police officers to try to achieve a way to introduce traffic calming measures on Levens Lane ensuring our children's safety when arriving and leaving school. This has proved extremely challenging and as yet there has been no satisfactory outcome to the issues that we repeatedly raise.

Representatives from our Governing Body are now actively seeking support from the Parish Council to reach some kind of solution for the village. With more parental support through the Parish Council, we are hopeful that a positive outcome may be possible. We hope to be able to share more news on this issue in the near future.

Please be aware that not every parental comment has been responded to here. Therefore, If you had a concern or question that requires a response, then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Farraday. We are happy to address individual comments or concerns.

In the meantime, thank you again for taking the time to complete the survey; governors and staff have found your feedback extremely valuable.

Yours sincerely,

Suzan Bishop
Chair of Governors

