Monday 13th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed a fantastic return to school already this autumn with 95 pupils now on roll, including 19 starters in Nursery! The children are happy to be back with their friends, gradually settling into routines; enthusiastic about their learning and are demonstrating so much care and consideration for each other in so many different ways. Lunchtimes and playtimes are such a positive time and all the children are clearly benefiting from their being no limitations to the space and the people that they can interact with in the outdoors. We do, however, try to avoid where possible children from different classes mixing indoors and all areas of school remain very well ventilated and are regularly cleaned. With two pupils testing positive last week, but no further cases, I hope it gives you confidence that the measures we have in place are having an impact.

We are sorry to have postponed our class drop-ins until the 23rd September, but believe this was the right decision to take under the circumstances. I do expect that during the course of the term, we will inevitably encounter further positive cases in both pupils and staff. This could cause disruption to learning and impact planned events if staff or pupils test positive with the virus. In the event of this happening, school will work hard to limit the impact of this but we will need continued patience and understanding.

**Arts Week:**

This week we are very excited to be working with local artist, Sophie Martin, for our very first ‘Arts week’.

Every child in school, even our nursery pupils, will have some time with Sophie learning how to develop their drawing techniques; learning how to draw from observation and foster further appreciation of the wellbeing benefits of art. The project will create a whole school collaborative mural on our dining room wall on the theme of ‘Community’. Pupils will be drawing in our school grounds, on the playing fields and around the village during the course of the week.

We are very grateful to the Michelle Jurd Memorial Trust who very generously gifted school a grant to fund this project and provide us with a wonderful, permanent artistic creation that has involved every child in the school. The Trust is a charity set up in memory of Michelle who was passionate about adventurous pursuits in the outdoors, the arts and theatre. The trust is involved in supporting many amazing charities, but also strives to give local school children amazing experiences beyond learning in the classroom. Please follow this link to learn more about the trust [here](https://michellejurdtrust.org/).

We look forward to sharing news about this fantastic opportunity very soon.

**After School Clubs and Music Tuition:**

We are very pleased to be welcoming back our piano teacher, Mrs Rainbow, on Thursday this week, and Mrs Hurley, who will be recommencing violin lessons on Tuesday. If your child already learns an instrument, please ensure they bring music and, where relevant, their instrument on the correct day.

Unfortunately, Mr John Wright is no longer available to us for guitar lessons, but we are looking forward to restarting guitar lessons for Key Stage Two pupils and welcoming back to school Rob Duesbury from Cumbria Music Service. Lessons start on Thursday morning.

Gymnastics and Running Club are returning also this week, but at the very last minute we have received notification from Westmorland FA that they are unlikely to be able to lead our very popular football club again this term. We hope to be able to have good news about football coaching very soon and thank you for your patience.

**Access to School Site:**

Please use the new green security gate to collect children from clubs or during the school day if you need to collect your child for a hospital appointment or because they have become unwell at school. The white gate leading to the playing fields is out of use whilst children are in school or at YoYo.

**Celebration Assemblies:**

Celebration Assemblies take place every week on Friday mornings at 9am and at least once a term we will be inviting parents to join us at these very special occasions.

We have made some changes to the arrangements for our Celebrations Assemblies this year. As our school grows, it is becoming increasingly challenging to sit all our pupils and staff in the school hall, before even considering space to welcome parents. We have to ensure that we are adhering to health and safety regulations which limit the number of people permitted to be in the hall at any time.

As a result, we will be hosting two celebration assemblies every halfterm where we will invite parents. The first, this Friday, will be for Key Stage Two parents only, Class 3 and Class 4. A second Celebration Assembly will take place on the last day of this half term, Friday 23rd October at 9am and will be for Key Stage One parents only, Class 1 and 2. Please come to our main entrance at 8.55am and do not enter school with the children if you plan to attend one of these events.

**Website information:**

Our website is regularly updated with vital information and will often answer questions you may have about future events, the curriculum, after school clubs and arrangements for each class.

Our school blog is an amazing way to keep in touch with things happening in and out of school. Staff regularly post photographs and stories about your child’s experiences and learning, so do keep checking back for news from school.

**Diary Dates:**

Please go to our website calendar to view forthcoming events by following this link [here](http://www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk/wp/calendar/action~week/page_offset~-1/time_limit~1630623600/request_format~html/).

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday