



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Monday 21st February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term after a rather wet, cold and windy half term holiday. It is wonderful to have everyone back in school today complete with happy faces and stories to share.

Although we had relatively low numbers of cases in pupils and in staff compared to other local schools last half term, Covid continues to impact the day-to-day functions of the school and puts additional burdens on staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Levens team for all that they do to keep our school environment safe; keep our children free from harm; and how they endeavour to ensure that our pupils are happy and continue with their learning whether at home or in school.

Thank you also to our parents and family members who continue to do all you can to keep our pupils and our staff safe by following continuously changing procedures and expectations from central government, local council and school over the last two years!

Xcountry Running:

Cross-country running continues to be enjoyed by so many of our junior pupils at our afterschool club every Friday afternoon. Later this term, many of our runners will compete at the Elleray Shield Competition in Windermere and we are busy preparing for this event.

Just before the half term holidays however, many of our running club members represented Levens School at the Dallam XCountry Competition where they competed against a number of other local schools. Congratulations to Lily, Harry, Joseph, Jim, Charlotte, Pearl, Cerys, Florence H, Rona, Grace and Florence B who ran an extremely long and rough course on an incredibly cold and blustery February afternoon. The children were exceptional ambassadors for our school and they showed great determination and resilience during their events. What made them stand out from the crowd was the way in which they spectated the events, cheering and shouting words of encouragement to motivate, inspire and support their peers as they competed. It was such an exciting afternoon.



Special congratulations to Grace, Charlotte and Rona who all received a place in the top three of their year group race!

Congratulations also to Dougal, Alfie and Aaron who chose to forgo the chance of a medal at Dallam, to compete at a much higher level. On the same afternoon, these three competed in the County Finals in Penrith alongside the best primary-aged pupils from all over Cumbria.

More about our School build:

We have been working very hard behind the scenes preparing for our school building improvements. We have been informed that the application to planning is likely to be submitted by the end of next week and we look forward to sharing more details about how this project will enhance our school environment very soon.

Part of the process of preparing for these extensive works has involved developing a very detailed School Travel Plan which forms one part of the documentation submitted to planning. This details some of the challenges our local environment presents for safe travel to and from school for our families as well as some initiatives that we are introducing to try to reduce risk outside our school site at the start and the end of the school day.

As part of this plan, we are asking every child who lives within walking distance of school to walk to school this Friday 25th February. If you live outside the village and therefore need to drive to school, we are asking everyone to park away from our school site and accompany your child to walk the remaining distance. One

option might be to park at St. John's Church and walk up Church Road. Please always consider our local residents by parking respectfully when arriving or collecting from school each day.

Price of Meals Increase:

Orion have informed us that due to increased costs, the price of meals will need to be increased at the start of the next financial year. Therefore, from Friday 1st April, each school meal will cost £2.95. Arrangements for all our infants who eat a school meal remain unchanged.

Fairtrade Fortnight:

This week marks the beginning of Fairtrade Fortnight. All our pupils will be learning more about Fairtrade through our curriculum and our assemblies over the next few days. Part of this will involve encouraging them to look out for the symbol when out shopping in the supermarket, receiving your on-line supermarket deliveries or by just looking through kitchen cupboards. We would really appreciate your support in helping our pupils to have an increased awareness of Fairtrade and its importance.



World Book Day:

Just a brief reminder that you should have received this year's book voucher and a letter from Mrs Wadey regarding our plans for World Book Day next Thursday 3rd March. We are expecting every child to have been creative over the half term holidays by making a sock puppet of their favourite book character to share with us as part of our WBD celebrations. FOLs have kindly agreed to provide one prize of a £5 Waterstones voucher for one creative and original sock puppet from each year group!

We are also hoping that you have been looking through your mini-libraries at home in order to select some pre-loved books that you would recommend and be happy to donate to our second-hand book sale.

Celebration Assemblies:

We have two further Celebration Assemblies this half term:

Friday 25th February at 9am for parents of children in Class 3 and Class 4 only. (Please only come to school if you are 100% fit and well, take a LFD test if possible, sign in and wear a mask whilst in school, regardless of any government announcements this week.)

Friday 25th March at 9am for parents of children in Class 1 and 2 only. (Information around Covid safety will follow closer to the event if required.)

Children's Society Candles:

Thank you to every family who collected coins and returned your Children's Society candles which raised £141.23 this year.

Diary Dates:

This is a reminder that information about events, trips etc can be found on our website calendar by following this link [here](#).

Parent-Teacher Appointments – Tuesday 8th March and Thursday 10th March from 3.15pm.

Red Nose Day – Friday 18th March – details to follow from our School Council.

Brewery Dance Platform – Wednesday 30th March – tickets can be purchased directly from Brewery Box office.

School closes for the Easter holidays at 2pm – Friday 1st April.

Here's looking forward to the next few weeks and hopefully further easing of restrictions in and out of school; as well as some warmer and dryer signs of the arrival of spring!

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Farraday". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Jane Farraday