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# LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

Church Road, Levens, Kendal LA8 8PU 015395 60694 office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredibly busy few weeks we have had since the half term holidays in February. Unfortunately, we have been hit hard by Covid this term, with as many as 27 pupils at home after testing positive last week and a total of five staff off school with Covid this term. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work in keeping the children learning, whether at home or in school, and also to all of you for working with us during these intensely challenging and frustrating times. If you and your families have been affected by Covid over the last few weeks we are sending you our best wishes for a speedy and full recovery ready for the Easter holidays.

The increase in cases did lead us to escalate measures to reduce further spread of infections which included two classes returning to bubble-type arrangements for the duration of last week. We re-introduced staff wearing masks in communal areas and asked parents to wear masks at our assessment meeting and KS1 assembly last week. With very few cases reported towards the end of last week or over the weekend, and none in Class 3 or 4, we were able to return to our usual Covid measures on Monday. We are very pleased to be making it to the Easter holidays with no further cases and therefore no further disruption.

### **Xcountry Running:**

Our final event of the year was the Elleray shield on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March alongside 15 other schools and over 600 other participants. Members of the school Running Club took this challenging race in their stride in wet, cold and blustery conditions alongside between 80-130 runners in each race. The course was extremely difficult as it was very muddy, included rivers, involved steep climbs and almost vertical descents. Every child was cheered and supported from the side lines by an enthusiastic group of fellow participants, parents and staff – it was an incredible atmosphere and every pupil completed the course in their best time. Everyone finished the course, despite the mud, and received well-deserved medals and certificates, but special mention must go to our Under 10 girls' team who won the 'Elleray Shield'; and to the under 11 boys who came third.

Huge congratulations to Dougal Houston (year 6) who qualified for the National XCountry Finals after doing so well at local and regional events earlier this term. Dougal is an amazing long-distance athlete and a regular member of our Friday Running Club, inspiring many of our younger members. Dougal travelled to Leicester this weekend and competed well against the best from across the country!

We celebrated our success with a final running club held at Levens Deer Park followed by hot chocolate and cake at Mrs Mason's farm in the sunshine. Running Club has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of this year and I am so very grateful to Mrs Coker and Mrs Mason for their passion and commitment to organising such an invigorating and fun club at the end of every week since last September. We are already on the look-out for new

runners joining us from year 2 next September and have high hopes for our current runners in the events already scheduled for the autumn. Bring it on!

**Brewery Dance Platform:**

Tomorrow night, our dance club perform their sea-themed creation on stage at the Brewery Dance Festival. Huge thanks to Miss Robinson and Martha for choreographing the routines and supporting the children with practices over the last few months. We are sure it is going to be a night to remember and we wish everyone taking part our best wishes for their big night.

Details about how to purchase a CD of the show will follow.

**Day for Ukraine:**

Huge thanks and congratulations go to all our families for supporting our day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. The children embraced our day with their blue and yellow outfits and absolutely delicious cakes. It is amazing that we managed to raise a staggering £452 (helped by a £100 donation from one pupil's grandfather).

This week we are taking the opportunity to learn about democracy with a secret ballot involving every child in school. Class 4 have been finding out about all 15 of the charities involved in DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) to present to the school. The children will then take part in a vote to determine which charity our money will be sent to at the end of this week. More information about this will be posted on our school blog.



Can you spot the minion hiding in the crowd?

**Class 4 Three-day Visit to Patterdale Hall:**

Thank you to everyone for your payments so far. We are now requesting that full payment is made by the end of April. We have estimated that the full cost of the trip will be £210, therefore please forward any outstanding payment to the office by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. If you are unsure of the amount that is still due, please get in touch with Mrs Coker via the office email account.

**Scooters and Bicycles:**

During the summer term, we hope to have a new scooter pod installed on the playground so that our active children can store their scooters safely during the school day and the bike shelter can be reserved for bicycles.

Please can we remind everyone that scooters and bicycles should not be ridden on our playground before or after school. This will ensure everyone, particularly our pre-school children, are safe on our busy playground at the start and end of the school day. The children have been reminded of this rule in our assemblies this week.

This is the second of our two weeks participating in the national 'Big Bike and Pedal', and it is not too late to participate and increase our sustainable statistics as we vie for one of the available school prizes. Parking 5 minutes from school and walking in is a qualifiable journey!

**More about our School build:**

We hope that you have by now had a chance to see the planning application on the county planning site. If you haven't looked yet, please follow the link [here](#) to see the plans before the end of this week whilst they are still live.

The work onsite is scheduled to begin mid-September.

**FOLS News:**

On behalf of everyone at Levens, thank you to FOLS for being involved in supporting our World Book Day celebrations in school. It was lovely to see so many families making the most of the opportunity to buy a pre-loved book from our stall and enjoy some refreshments.

I understand our very keen committee members are already on with planning some summer events for our calendar too – more news to follow very soon!

**Diary Dates:**

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

**Easter Service:**

Our Easter Service is taking place this Thursday at 9.30am at St. John's Church and everyone is very welcome to attend.

**Term Dates 2022-23:**

Please note that the dates for the autumn term are different to CCC dates:

<u>Autumn term:</u>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September – Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September – School closed for Westmorland County Show.
Half term: Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October until Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
<u>Spring term:</u>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Half term: Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February until Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
<u>Summer term:</u>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
Half term: Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May until Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June

Wishing everyone a very happy Easter and let's hope for some more of the lovely sunshine that we have been able to enjoy in recent times. Please remember that school closes at 2pm this Friday!

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday