24th August 2022

Dear Parents

**Uniform Update – Autumn 2022**

First of all, a huge thank you to the fifty parents who completed our recent school uniform survey and provided comprehensive answers to the questions raised; your responses have been very helpful and have assisted with the focus of a uniform tendering exercise, which is about to be undertaken. This will ensure that our uniform continues to provide optimal quality and value for money.

As a school, senior leaders, governors and staff, have been looking at how we embrace the objectives of the government school uniform directive that will become statutory from September 2023. As part of the process we will now: -

* Reduce the number of logoed items that will be required
* Issue a clear uniform policy
* Ensure that items provide best value and are accessible for families
* Solicit the views, and listen to feedback from parents and children
* Commit to optimising sustainability
* Offer options to obtain ‘pre-loved’ items
* Regularly tender school contracts (at least 5 yearly),

Feedback from the survey indicates that: -

* Families are pleased with the quality of the uniform (74%, with 16% unsure)
* Pupils are overwhelmingly happy to wear the Levens uniform (92%)
* The majority of families would like the school to pursue the provision of sustainably sourced items (74%)
* 50% of respondents felt that the uniform offered good value for money with another 15% unsure
* Only 8% of families struggled to source non-logo items
* A large proportion of families feel that the uniform promotes identity and belonging (86%, with 6% unsure)
* The overwhelming majority of families (94%), feel that uniform minimises competition over clothing
* 70% of our families have sourced items from our ‘pre-loved’ sales
* 68% of families feel that the school using a local supplier is important
* 80% of respondents find the ordering process via the website, easy to use

Comments received were largely very positive.

Generally, respondents commented on the super quality of the uniform and that pupils enjoyed wearing it - ‘*I think uniform is very important and that children enjoy wearing it too’.*

There were comments relating to the quality of the PE T-shirt, specifically logo shrinkage. Thank you for that, as a result we have spoken to the suppliers who are sourcing a replacement.

Parents commented that sometimes orders are delayed for which we apologise. There is often a ‘glut’ of orders at the end of the summer term and this is why we encourage and advise early ordering. As with many supply chains, there have also been issues that have been Covid related.

A few respondents asked if PE kits needed to be logoed and if the kit needs to be a lighter blue colour. From a school perspective, when children are representing the school at local events and competitions, the variance and ready identification of schools is a necessity. Our pupils are safer as they are readily identifiable both to Levens and organising staff. Parents of older children who have attended events will attest to this.

A few respondents also suggested that children be allowed to wear coloured and patterned socks. We are reluctant to agree to this, but are committed to having non-uniform days where children are encouraged to express their individuality.

Once again, many thanks for your significant engagement, the feedback has been invaluable and helped us to ascertain popular items, levels of quality as well as a few issues along the way that we hope to be able to address.

As always, if there are any personal, family specific issues, I would urge families to get in touch with us directly in school.

The new school uniform policy will be approved very shortly and be made available to families both directly and on the school website.

Best Wishes



Jane Farraday

Headteacher