



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Friday 2nd September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new School year. On behalf of the all the staff and governors at Levens CE School, we hope that all our families have enjoyed a healthy, happy and relaxing summer and that you and your child/children are feeling both excited and ready for our return next Tuesday. All 15 of our Reception starters this year are transferring from Nursery; and we have some new families joining us for the first time this September. On behalf of everyone at Levens, a special warm welcome to all our new families and pupils.

For those new to school in Nursery (from Monday 12th September), please do take time to refresh yourselves with our routines and processes via the booklets on our admission pages and please get in touch if you have any remaining queries. We are very keen to ensure that the start of the journey is as smooth and worry-free as possible.

School Extension:

Unfortunately, there has been another delay to the building work which was expected to start at the end of September. I have been reassured by leads at CCC that the work will still be complete for the start of the academic year 2023. With larger numbers of children in each year group now coming up through school, this will be in good time to move a class out of Helvellyn and make full use of the larger, new classroom. The delay will also allow more work to be done when the school is closed for holidays and therefore reduce disruption. I will update you again as soon as I receive further news to share.

Ofsted Inspection:

As our last Ofsted Inspection was back in November 2017 and inspections have now fully resumed after Covid halted proceedings, we are expecting to welcome inspectors to School this academic year; and very possibly this term. Notification of an inspection comes via a telephone call less than 24hours prior and we will inform parents via a text and brief pupils during the day. We are also expecting our SIAMS inspection during the course of this year – this is a separate inspection for church schools only.

The School has moved on enormously and in a variety of ways since our last inspection, including the extensive changes to our Early Years provision and the significant work we have completed on developing our curriculum. Parental support and engagement, safeguarding, behaviour, our Christian ethos and our pastoral support for all our pupils remain just some of the many strengths of our School. We thank you for your continued support – your input and involvement in your child/children's experiences and learning are extremely valuable to our work in supporting your children to be happy at school and achieve their best.

Your feedback is also very important to us and you often provide this through ongoing informal conversations or in your emails. We are very keen to receive some more general feedback about the school in the form of a simple survey based on Ofsted's Parental Questionnaire from our families who have been with us for at least one academic year.

If you have a few minutes, please complete the survey by following the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=T4D9r2XkKEuuZkRbPv2QcZj5JH1e9IIJup8JIZL3ralUN0RLTUZTM1FUUjRDQUc3MIISOVgzVEw0MC4u>

The survey closes at 2.45pm on Friday 16th September.

Arriving at School:

On the first day of the new term, Tuesday 6th September (Monday 12th September for all Nursery pupils), you will be able to enter the school site through either entrance – from the playing fields or the main entrance on Church Road from 8.30am. At 8.35, our doors open and staff will be on the playground to welcome your child and guide them to the correct door if they are unsure.

We really value our children arriving promptly as every child, even those in Nursery, have a morning task to complete as soon as they get into the classroom. This enables class teachers to greet each child individually,

make the most of learning time and set the right tone for the rest of the day. We aim to have everyone in their classroom engaged in activities and ready for registration, no later than 8.45am every morning.

If your child has a letter, reply slip or a payment to bring into school, they are expected to bring this in to their classroom. Each class has a box where things for the office are placed each morning. Class teachers will be encouraging your child to use this system and to be as independent as possible!

Our registration period ends at 8.50am. Children who miss this session will receive a late mark in the register and will need to report to the office at the main entrance. Ensuring your child is punctual every day ensures they are able to feel settled and ready for learning.

At the end of the day, your child will be brought out onto the playground by their class teacher or a teaching assistant at **3.15pm** (3pm for Nursery pupils). This is a good opportunity to catch up with school staff with any questions or information you need to share. Sometimes staff may also approach you with some important information from the day – for example a first aid report.

Expectations on Uniform:

Over the summer, and using the feedback from the uniform parental survey, we have been developing a detailed School Uniform Policy which outlines our commitment to ensuring our uniform is affordable and our uniform expectations are clear and consistent for pupils and parents. This will be published on our website in due course.

Pupils from Reception through to year 6 are expected to wear grey or black shorts, skirts or trousers; white or pale blue polo shirts; with a Levens sweater, cardigan or fleece. Pupils should wear sensible school shoes or an appropriate ankle-boot with plain socks or tights. Open-toe sandals, trainers, pumps and calf or knee-high boots are not appropriate footwear for school days. All pupils are expected to have a named water bottle and a coat in school every day.

Apart from pupils in Reception and Nursery who come to school wearing their kit on relevant days, PE kits should be kept in school at all times. This should be a pair of pumps or trainers, plus the official Levens PE kit of plain black or navy blue shorts or plain black or navy blue joggers, a Levens pale blue PE t-shirt and PE hoodie. Fashion leggings, football kits etc are not permitted.

Pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery, with the exception of stud earrings, but these must be removed for swimming and for PE lessons. Wrist watches are permitted, but these should not be smartwatches or physical fitness watches.

Long hair should be tied up at all times. Make-up, nail polish and large, fashion headbands and scarves are not permitted to be worn in school.

Most importantly, please ensure everything is named so that lost belongings can be reunited with their owners swiftly.

Class information:

Our class pages are currently being updated with information for the autumn term. This includes the class newsletters with details about the curriculum and your child's learning programme, PE days and homework. Please take a look next week to ensure you are updated with everything you need to know ahead of the start of term.

Please continue to use our class email addresses to contact your child's teacher: we aim to get back in touch with you within 48hours, but please do not expect replies in the evenings or at weekends.

Class1@levens.cumbria.sch.uk	Mrs Haslam – Nursery and Reception
Class2@levens.cumbria.sch.uk	Miss Robinson – Years 1 + 2
Class3@levens.cumbria.sch.uk	Mrs Wadey – Years 3 + 4
Class4@levens.cumbria.sch.uk	Mr Dean – Years 5 + 6

Healthy Snacks:

A reminder that children in Class 1 and Class 2 are provided with a snack every morning in school and do not require snacks brought in from home. Children in Class 3 and 4 are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack. This may be rice cakes, raisins, bread sticks or items/pieces of fruit. Please do not send your child into school with crisps, cereal bars, cakes or sweets; and also please ensure that your choice of snack is always nut-free.

Reporting absence from school:

If your child is ill and not attending school, please contact the school office directly by emailing Mrs Coker on office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk no later than 9am on the first day of absence. The school office does not open until 8.30am so if you try to call instead of emailing before this time, your call may not be answered.

YoYo After School Care:

Our after school club runs from Monday to Thursday from 3.15pm until 5.15pm and is open to children aged 4 and up. If you require regular child care or just the occasional session, please do contact Mrs Coker who can advise you on how to make the necessary arrangements. There is also information about YoYo on our school website. Please note, however, that we are seeing a significant demand for the provision and as we cannot exceed our attendance limits, please get in touch as soon as you recognise that you will need childcare: it might be that 'on the day' requests cannot always be met.

Class Drop-ins:

We will be welcoming parents into school on Monday 26th September from 3.30pm to meet informally with your child's classteacher in your child's classroom. FOLS will be serving refreshments in our outdoor shelter area from 3.15pm.

Attendance:

This is a very polite reminder that attendance at school is compulsory and that holidays should not be taken in term time. All requests for holidays will be unauthorised and referred to the Access and Inclusion Office for Attendance at Cumbria County Council. If you choose to take your child out of school in term time you may be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £60 per parent per child.

Our Attendance Policy can be found on our website and paper copies are available on request.

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 6 th September	School reopens for autumn term – Reception-Year 6. Doors open at 8.35am and all pupils should be in their classrooms for registration by 8.45am.
Thursday 8 th September	School Closed for Staff Inset. Westmorland County Show Day 2
Monday 12 th September	Nursery Provision Begins in Class 1 Reading Meeting for all Reception Parents at 4pm in the School Hall.
Wednesday 14 th September	All pupils in Class 3 and Class 4 begin swimming lessons. Football Club starts for pupils in Years 2-4 until 4.15pm.
Friday 16 th September	Reception and Nursery Parent Welcome Breakfast hosted by FOLS 9-10am in our dining room.
Friday 23 rd September	Sailing Experience at Windermere – Class 4
Monday 26 th September	Class Drop In Sessions – please come into school and meet informally with your child's teacher 3.30-4.15pm
Friday 30 th September	Climbing Wall Experience, Kendal Climbing Wall – Class 3

Please ensure you regularly check our School website calendar as this is constantly being updated!

Thank you for taking the time to read our September newsletter. We very much look forward to welcoming you very soon.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday