



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Friday 21st October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great first half term so far this autumn. The return of the Levens School Disco was a definite highlight for so many of our pupils and some classes have already enjoyed trips and visits off site, whether to compete in sporting competitions at Dallam; enjoy an introduction to new sports; or extend their learning out of the classroom on enrichment visits. The juniors have just completed their six week series of swimming lessons at Kendal Leisure Centre.

We are also pleased to be able to extend our after-school clubs too this term, with Art Club, Netball and Running Club all on offer in the lead up to the Christmas holidays.

It has also been lovely to welcome parents into school for our Celebration Assemblies and for parent-teacher discussions. Class 3 meetings take place in the first week back after the holidays.

Staff News:

I am sorry to inform you that Mrs Wadey's ill health continues into the second half of the autumn term. Thank you for all the lovely messages of support and kindness from children and their families that have come into school over the last few weeks. Ms Chapman has been an incredible asset to the school already and will continue to lead teaching and learning in Class 3 after half term. She has many years of experience and expertise and brings plenty of enthusiasm to ensuring that Class 3's learning and wellbeing is not compromised in Mrs Wadey's absence. We are very pleased, and feel incredibly lucky, to have her on the Levens team for the foreseeable future.

We also have valuable support from Mrs Nicky Lawless and Miss Sophie Bell in school this term. We are very fortunate to have such skilled, professional and dedicated supply staff complementing our strong Levens team.

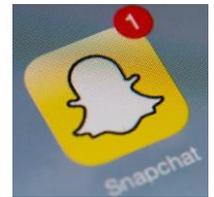
Safety on Our School Site:

Before we finish for the half term holidays we would like to encourage our parents and families to support us in keeping all children safe as they arrive and leave school. Our pupils and their younger siblings should not be using the playground equipment before or after school, including our new outdoor gym equipment. We would also like to remind all parents that our playground is far too busy to allow bikes and scooters to be ridden within our school grounds at the end of the school day. Thank you for your cooperation in helping all our children to stay safe at all times.

Additionally, you will have noticed that the handrail leading up to our dining hall is now covered in hazard tape. We need to avoid contact as much as possible with the glass and rail whilst we await required repairs.

Mobile Phones and Social Media:

It has come to our attention that an increasing number of very young children have access to social media apps on their own personal devices. Primary-aged children do not have the maturity or skills to be able to use these apps which have age recommendations of 13+. We are aware that children at our school are sometimes using their devices and these apps to send unkind and inappropriate messages to other pupils. We would therefore urge all parents, whose children have their own phone, to ensure that they have appropriate filters, that their use is monitored regularly and that you remove social media apps such as Snapchat and Instagram which are designed only to be used by secondary-aged teenagers.



For more information about how to keep your children safe online please visit:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Keeping in Touch:

Each week, staff at school add photographs and information to our school blog. This is a great way to keep in touch with your child's learning as well as the learning and experiences of other children in our school. It's a lovely way to open up conversations with your child about things that are happening in school.

Our online calendar is also regularly updated with events taking place in school as well as trips, clubs and competitions. Please keep a close eye on this to ensure you have early notification of forthcoming events.

Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing:

In school we have been putting mental health high on the agenda this term. One of the ways in which we have done this is through our 'Feel Good Fridays' initiative, where each class spend an hour each week dedicated to learning collaboratively; engaging in some games; talking about their feelings and their news; learning strategies to cope when they become anxious or frustrated; or doing some kind of physical exercise in addition to our PE lessons.

This half term, some of our parents are sharing with us their concerns about their children's resilience and telling us that they are presenting with more challenging behaviours than they've experienced previously. The staff at school who are also parents have experienced similar challenges at one time or another in their own homes and can often relate to your experiences. We thought we would share this article, recently published on the BBC website about just how stressful some children can find school and why their behaviours after school can sometimes be unpredictable. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z863cxs>
It offers good tips and advice about how to respond to this; as well as the reassuring news that you are not alone and that your experiences are much more common than you might have anticipated.

After half term we will be introducing further strategies for our pupils to be able to develop awareness of their own emotions and learn about ways to cope with what we often call 'fizzy feelings'!

School Policies and Information:

Many of our policies are regularly updated and are available to view on our website. Paper copies can also be supplied by contacting the school office. Recent updates include our School Uniform Policy, Attendance Policy, Behaviour Policy and Procedures, Child Protection Policy and our SEND policy.

There is also a wide range of information on our website about the school curriculum. You can find out about your child's learning for this year via the class pages in the pupil section of the website. More detailed information about what is taught in each subject across the school can be found in our curriculum areas.

Year 6 deadline for applications to secondary school:

A quick reminder to all our year 6 parents that the deadline for applying for your child's secondary school place is approaching. Applications MUST be with Cumbria County Council by 31st October 2022. Please ensure you have completed your online form before we return to school after the half term holidays.

Harvest Gifts:

Thank you so much for all your very generous Harvest Gifts. School Council have been busy sorting all the produce ready to be delivered to our local foodbanks.



Children in Need:

School Council will soon be making plans for our Children in Need day which takes place on Friday 18th November this year!

Boxes of Hope:

Why not get involved in the Boxes of Hope campaign this half term. Earlier this week, the children attended an assembly about how a shoe box of small gifts could make all the difference to a child this Christmas. In previous years, this has been a very well supported activity and we hope to be able to send off a substantial number of boxes to Eastern Europe again this December. Every child in school has already received a leaflet and we would love to see boxes arriving in school during the week beginning 14th November ready for collection at the end of that week.

Covid Testing and Sickness:

As we enter the season of sneezes and sniffles, I just wanted to remind you that there is absolutely no requirement for any of our pupils to be undertaking LFD tests, even if they are presenting with typical Covid symptoms. All Covid procedures, including regular LFD testing by staff, have now been withdrawn. If your child is unwell, they should remain at home until they are well enough to return to school.

Please ensure you let the office know that your child is not attending school and the reason for their absence by 9am on the first day – either via an email or by telephoning school. If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, they must remain off school for a further 48hours following the last episode.

A reminder that the school vaccination programme takes place on the first Wednesday back after half term for all pupils who have already returned consent to school.

With my sincere good wishes for a relaxing, healthy and happy half term holiday on behalf of staff and governors at Levens School.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Farraday".

Jane Farraday