



# 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  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children from across the school have enjoyed a usually busy and exciting first part of the spring term.

Our Year 5 and 6 residential in Edinburgh earlier this week was such a success, helped by some fabulously fine weather. Our trip included a tour of the Scottish Parliament, a walk around Edinburgh Zoo and a visit to the National Museum of Scotland. Thanks to Mrs Matheson and Mr Dean who supported the trip this year; to FOLS for the generous gift of £10 spending money for every child; and of course, to our pupils who were such a pleasure to spend time with over our three days away. Finally, thank you to Mrs Coker for all her help organising the trip and her support in booking our train tickets and museum visits too.



Earlier this term, we celebrated Multi-Faith Week which was an incredible experience for us all. Feedback from the children highlighted how much they enjoyed being taught by different teachers each morning

and loved all the different types of assemblies during the course of the week. We also enjoyed a live link-up with Mohammad, a pupil in year 6 at a school in Lancaster, who answered all the children's questions about living life following the Islamic faith. We are currently in the process of organising off-site visits to a place of worship for all pupils in the summer term. Details will follow soon!



Wheelchair Basketball was another hit with all the children who absolutely loved the experience of using a wheelchair – it was incredible how quickly they were able to adapt to the chair effectively whilst controlling a ball at the same time! Nat Pattinson, wheelchair basketball world champion, started the day off with an inspirational talk about his life both before and after his accident; he certainly gave us lots of very valuable advice about believing anything is possible and never to give up!



Many of you enjoyed a great day out at the rugby with Mrs Coker and Mrs Mason as Barrow Raiders' School of the Week once again! What a fabulous community event that was enjoyed by many of our families from across school.



Thanks to Eco-Team who have already planted some young trees in the developing community garden and who are now involved in looking at all the ideas and designs that have been submitted for further plans for the development of the garden.

This week we have marked Safer Internet Day and Mental Health Week with lessons and assemblies about keeping safe online and how to stay healthy mentally, as well as physically.



Events coming up soon include:

School Disco on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
Celebration Assembly for Class 4 on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Fairtrade Fortnight starting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
World Book Day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (Details to follow soon)  
Celebration Assembly for Class 3 on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March

School Building Work Update:

It's so exciting to see the work progressing above ground this week with the erection of the steel frames. This means that we are also approaching the end of the noisiest and messiest stages of the build, as the structure of the extension begins to take shape.

During the half term holidays, some work on internal changes to the building will begin, including preparation for new toilet facilities at the end of the hall next to Class 2 and adaptations to the current staff room which will become our new library area!

School Meals Price Increase:

Unfortunately, our providers, Orian, have advised that, due to escalating costs, they will need to increase the cost of meals that they provide for school; I expect that this will not be a surprise to families as we see unprecedented price increases in our own shopping bills. This means that the cost will increase to £3.35 per pupil meal from 1<sup>st</sup> April this year. Whilst this is unwelcome news, this is the first increase in two years and the meals do still offer excellent value for money and choice. Children who are eligible for free school meals and our infant children will not be affected.

Ofsted Inspection:

Thanks for all your support during our Ofsted Inspection last Tuesday, particularly to everyone who spoke to one of the inspection team and/or completed the parent survey. The inspection was a one-day ungraded inspection to determine whether the school remains a good provider. I am not able to share the outcomes of the inspection with you currently as this remains confidential until the report is published, but I anticipate that this will be soon after the half term break.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate our incredible pupils, many of whom had been quite significantly involved during the day. Children from across school were interviewed about maths and art lessons; asked about their views of what life is like at school; they shared their reading and interests in and out of school. They were also observed engaged in lessons; during social times on the playground; and their work across the curriculum was carefully scrutinised. They were all amazing ambassadors for our school and talked so enthusiastically to our visitors. The inspection also involved interviews with the staff; lesson observations; and discussions with governors, representatives from the local authority and Carlisle Diocese.

Staff News:

At half term we will be wishing Miss Butler all the best as she begins her maternity leave. We are all so excited for her and look forward to hearing the news of baby's arrival very soon. We promise to keep you updated. In the meantime, Miss Sophie Bell, who has been working in school on a supply basis for some time, will be continuing to work in Class 1, with specific responsibilities for the teaching and learning in Nursery. We are so pleased that Miss Bell has decided to continue working at Levens for the foreseeable future as she is such a wonderful complement to our strong staff team.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday