



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful, healthy and happy half term break and are looking forward to events leading up to the Christmas holidays; it's such a special time to be involved in school life.



During the final few days of last half term, we enjoyed a focus week about what it means to be anti-racist. We were blown away by all your children's engagement in this topic. Regardless of their age or level of understanding, the pupils were enthusiastic to know and understand more in assemblies and lessons throughout the week. Every child in school watched and responded to the animation made by Cumbrian

children affected by racism in their communities. All of this culminated in a special assembly on Friday, when each class shared their learning on prominent figures in history or an inspirational person of current times. For example, Reception told us all about the inventor of the super soaker, Lonnie Johnson! Thankfully they didn't use their working model to drench us all in the hall! This themed week will be running again so that the children can keep learning and discussing different themes provoked by the film as they journey through school. The staff, and pupils, feel very strongly that the learning on this topic is an extremely important element of our curriculum.

During the same week, we enjoyed the first of two opening ceremonies. Visitors to school included Councillor Sue Sanderson, cabinet member for children's services, education and skills who was involved in approving funding for the



extension at the very early stages of our application to Cumbria County Council. Some of our children featured in so many of the photographs and film taken on the day; and three children were invited to be interviewed on camera.

A link to the council's news page can be found [here](#). You may have seen a feature in The Westmorland Gazette last week and a video is due for release to the media very soon.

Another opening ceremony takes place this Thursday from 6.30pm and is intended to give local residents an opportunity to look around the new environment. We have been particularly keen to invite neighbours to our school who have put up with all the noise and disruption right outside their homes for almost twelve months.



Whole School Lego
Building Challenge!

At our opening ceremony we will be inviting Chuck Mason (aged 93), the oldest ex-pupil from Levens School, to open our new extension and our School Council have almost completed gathering specially chosen items to put in our time capsule.



The New School Library:

Our new school library is still being developed. Rosie and mum, Rachel, returned to school just before the holidays to choose some furniture, fairy lights and some of her favourite books. Meanwhile, our local artist, David Allonby, has been busy decorating our walls. All will be revealed very soon!

Photo Permissions and our website blog:

When your child starts school, whether that be in Nursery, Reception or sometime thereafter, the documents you are required to complete include your decision on whether we are permitted to share images of your child/children on our website blog and/or with external agencies.

Firstly I want to reassure you that children's names are never posted with photographs; we avoid using names entirely.

Photographs are an important element of our website blogs and we do want to continue to use our website as a way to share with you school news. We know that many parents and family members value the blog as a way to open up conversations with children at home about what's happening in school. We are currently reviewing our permissions. If you would like to check your consent for photographs to be shared on our website or with external agencies, please contact the office.

Video Camera Installation:

You will have been advised and seen the notices at the main school access gate on Church Road, relating to the installation of a camera so that staff can see who is at the door before allowing entry. Our new classroom build has meant that the access door is now obscured, hence the introduction of this safety and security measure. There is no recording facility, purely a live camera screen.

Staff News:

Miss Butler has extended her maternity leave to spend more valuable time with Leo. Although disappointed that she is not coming back just yet, we look forward to welcoming her back to Levens for some visits soon and in preparation for her return to work in the spring term.

Parent Governor News:

I am pleased to advise that Rachel Newberry has now joined the governor team as a parent-governor. I have no doubt that Rachel's knowledge and experience will bring valuable input to our meetings. There will be another parent governor vacancy shortly, when a term of office concludes in December. Please look out for further information in the coming weeks.



Class 3 enjoyed a sunny day exploring Vindolanda this month.

Remembrance Service:

A short service will take place at the memorial in St. John's grounds
On Friday 10th November from 10.45am. Children from Years 1 to 6 will attend the service
and you are all welcome to join us.

We have received our British Legion Collection Box and hope that all the children in school
will feel able to put some pennies in our box. Each class in school will make a wreath to put
on the memorial and we are encouraging the children to make their own hand-made
poppies out of recycled materials to wear at our special service! We are also awaiting a
resource pack from Croppers in Burneside with paper and instructions on how to make
more of our own poppies in school.

Children in Nursery and Reception will be involved in their own shorter service in school at
the same time.

FOLS:

Thank you to everyone who attended our FOLS AGM recently. If being a member of the
FOLS committee might not be for you but you are keen to get involved at some of our
events, please do let one of the committee know or alternatively post a message on their
Facebook page. Thank you to Alice Sharples for her contribution to the committee as
treasurer for the last two years. Alice remains a committee member but her role as
treasurer has now been taken by Jan Mason.

The Christmas Fair is now scheduled for Friday 1st December from 5.30pm – please save
the date!

Pre-loved Uniform Sale:

We have our first sale this Thursday at 8.30am in our school dining hall. If you have
donations for us to sell, please ensure they are clean, in really good condition and that
children's names have been removed! All items just 50pence! If your child is in Eco-Team
please can they come straight to the dining hall at 8.35am on Thursday morning to help
run our stall.

Please ensure you regularly check our school website calendar which has just been
updated!

Just follow this link - <https://www.levens.cumbria.sch.uk/calendar/>

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday