



# LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an amazing few weeks since the start of the spring term.



Parents, children and staff are still buzzing from their night at the Manchester Arena on Monday, when 29 of our KS2 pupils sang their hearts out with 9000 other primary-aged children at the north west 'Young Voices' concert. The children have been rehearsing every week since last October and their efforts to learn all the songs and the lyrics by heart culminated in the most incredible night of their lives. What an experience for everyone.

Huge thanks to you for supporting your child learn the songs and for coming along on the night. On behalf of everyone at Levens, thanks to Mrs Haslam and Ms Chapman for taking the bold step to involve Levens School at this massive event for the first time ever. I am pleased to share that they are already planning this singing opportunity for any junior child who enjoys singing again next year. Look out for more photos and film on our website blog soon!



Well done also to all our amazing runners who took part in the county x-country finals in Penrith recently. We have three pupils who have qualified at national level and will therefore compete again later this spring in Leicester. Rona, Charlotte and Grace will run alongside the best runners from across England and we wish them every success – Go for gold girls!

During this term, the whole school has enjoyed a fabulous period of themed learning during 'Multi-Faith Week'. Each day, every class was taught for the first hour of every morning by a different teacher learning all about the sacred texts of Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism. At the end of the week, we evaluated the learning experience by asking our pupils for feedback – What have you learnt? What have you enjoyed? Why is it important? Each class

also shared their learning in our special celebration assembly on Friday.



### **A Tribute to Pam Martin:**

It is with great sadness that I let our parents and wider family members know that Pam Martin, a dear and well-respected friend to us all at Levens, passed away peacefully last week. Long before I became head at Levens in 2015, Pam had already contributed much to our school and this continued right up to the end of the autumn term, just last year.

She was one of the first people I met in my first few visits to Levens; and instantly I was struck by her warmth and kindness. Little did I know at that time, the enormous impact she would have on me in my new role as the headteacher of a Church of England School, but also on the families and all the pupils connected to school. There are so many ways that she has shown commitment, dedication and care for our school in projects that have raised our awareness; fundraised for charities on a global as well as local scale; and inspired us all. These have included: sharing her passion for God's creation and our environment; a commitment to raising the profile of social injustice and equality through initiatives like Fairtrade and Toilet Twinning; her expertise and support for developing staff knowledge in planning our religious education curriculum and our spiritual development. Furthermore, she has strengthened our links with our global partners in Uganda; led countless events for our youngest families and children through 'Messy Church' and Toddler Taster Days in school; and been a very long-standing and valuable volunteer who has accompanied us on so many visits and heard countless children read through the years. Her legacy at Levens will live on for many, many years. I am sure I speak for so many when I say how blessed we were to have her involved in our school and our community for so long. We will all miss her deeply.

Please continue to pray for Pam, her husband Peter, her children and her grandchildren as they come to terms with their huge loss.

### **Blessed Hill Fundraising raised £385.77**

We have now sent off our cheque to Blessed Hill Brick Appeal and thanks to everyone who has supported our global partners so generously. Thank you also to FOLS for their £100 contribution to this total.

### **School Meals**

Apologies for having to advise a price increase in the cost of paid school meals from 1<sup>st</sup> April. The charge will increase from £3.35 to £3.45 per meal. This is a direct consequence of our school lunch supplier increasing the cost to school.

### **Snacks**

Children in early years and KS1, are provided with a fruit snack every morning. Our KS2 pupils, those in Class 3 and 4, are permitted to bring in a healthy nut-free snack. This might be some raisins, rice cakes, some fruit or bread sticks. Please do not let your child bring in biscuits, cakes, sausage rolls, croissants etc for morning break.

### **Replies to School**

Our school office is a very busy place. It would help greatly if responses could be dealt with in a timely way and by the deadline. Thank you for your support with this as prompt responses and payments lead to efficient organisation and planning of events and activities.

### **Concerns from the community regarding activity on the playing fields**

In the last few weeks, children have been witnessed playing dangerously and disrespectfully on the playing fields after school. Concerns have been raised with school by members of our parent body and wider community. The stone wall onto Levens Lane is deteriorating and large stones and accompanying debris is either falling onto or being thrown into the road where there are parked cars and vehicles travelling. This is no doubt causing a distraction and potentially causing damage to cars. Children have also been witnessed throwing stones and large branches on to the bowling green which is not an area for play for our pupils. We regularly convey our expectations to children, and we also urge parents and carers to reinforce these messages and have their children clearly in sight when they are playing after school on the playing fields so that the area is respected for everyone's enjoyment and a serious accident is avoided.

### **YoYo**

Reminder - there will be no YoYo provision available on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February due to all staff attending important statutory training after school. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

### **Staying Safe Online**

On Tuesday, we marked Safer Internet Day with a special assembly and lessons on how to have fun and remain safe online. All our junior pupils have received an updated Acceptable Use Agreement to read with carers/parents at home – please take time to talk about internet safety with your child/children at home and return these agreements to school at your earliest convenience. More valuable information and resources can be found at [Childnet – Online safety for young people](#).

Please be reassured that the children also receive positive messages about being safe on line throughout the year through our computing and SCARF curriculum!

### **Forthcoming Events**

Please take a look at the school calendar for some dates to add to your diary. Events coming up after half term include: Celebration Assemblies for Class 1 and Class 2; Year 6 Booster Maths lessons; Class 2 Athletics event at Dallam School; Patterdale Information Meeting for parents and children; Class 4 trip to Liverpool World Museum and Class 3 trip with Woodmatters!

There are also lots of events in the calendar being organised by FOLS. Please make sure you look out for the flyers advertising the intriguing Pig Races at the Gilpin Bridge Inn on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6.30pm. It sounds like a crazy night of fun and laughter that would be too good to miss.

On behalf of everyone at Levens, I hope you enjoy a relaxing, healthy and happy half term break and we will see you for the start of a new week on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday