

  
**LEVENS CE SCHOOL**

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

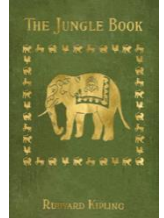
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Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a great start to the new school year. Our new Nursery pupils have settled well into their new routines and Reception are being very well supported by their new year six buddies. Class 3 have already been out on the first visit of the year – an outdoor adventure day in a beautiful woodland with Woodmatters. Every other class has a trip or workshop in school scheduled for later in the term; and of course everyone is looking forward to our annual whole-school visit to the theatre at the end of November to see the Jungle Book – please see your letter detailing our arrangements and our required voluntary contribution. Thank you to FOLS for paying for the cost of our journey to the theatre in Keswick once again this year.



Earlier this term, it was lovely to see so many friends and family members attend our Harvest Service at St. John's Church. Your generous donations have already been collected by the team at Kendal Foodbank earlier this week who are immensely appreciative of your generosity.



This term, it has been wonderful to have Bob Sutcliffe working in school with various classes and leading this term's art club for our lower juniors. You may not be aware that Bob, as well as an inspirational artist, is a qualified teacher with years of experience in a range of schools. The quality of the work that has been created this term so far is inspiring and we are so pleased that Bob has joined our team.





Leaf studies using watercolours and inks, created by Art Club.



Work on portraiture using graphite and art pencils, completed by Class 4.

Abstract work inspired by the artists Carolee Clark and Reggie Laurent by Class 4.

## Half Term Family Art Workshops

1st November 10-11.30  
Levens Hall



All new content for anyone returning! Adults come free!  
All equipment provided.



### **Attendance:**

This is a very polite reminder that attendance at school is compulsory and that holidays should not be taken in term time. Please check our school term time dates published on our website before booking any holiday to ensure your child is not absent from school unnecessarily. The local authority team are working with schools to improve attendance and have created a new county-wide policy to ensure consistency across schools and we will soon be introducing an updated 'request for absence' form which will be available from our website.

### **Term Dates Reminder 2024-5:**

#### Term Dates 2024-2025:

##### Autumn Term 2024

Term Starts: Wednesday 4th September until Friday 20th December

School closed on Thursday 12th September for Westmorland County Show

Half term: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November

##### Spring Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 6th January until Friday 4th April

Half term: Monday 17th February until Friday 21st February

##### Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22nd April until Friday 18th July

Half term: Monday 26th May until Friday 30th May.

Term dates for academic year 2025-6 will be published on our website by the end of the autumn term.

### **Staff News:**

I am very pleased to inform our wider community that Mrs Court is recovering well and enjoyed a short visit to school yesterday morning. She is keen to return to her invaluable roles in school and we hope to be welcoming her back later this term!

### **Teacher-parent/carer Appointments:**

By now, you should have received your appointment time for our meetings next week. If you haven't returned the slip – please don't worry – your child's teacher will have allocated you an appointment on one of the two days offered. Please help us all keep to time by arriving promptly and keeping within your allocated time. Some of your children's learning will be out for you to see before or immediately after your appointment.

You will also have the opportunity to take some pre-loved school uniform on both evenings – this will be laid out on tables in our school hall with an honesty box for your donations.

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week.

### **Nursery – January Starters**

Please be assured that applicants for a Nursery place from January will be contacted shortly to confirm the outcome of applications. This round of admissions are for children who had their third birthday during this autumn term. The situation for admissions during the summer term will be advised in early January, once the available places are known. A reminder that for all Nursery children due to start Reception in September 2025, parents/carers must apply for their place via WAF Council in early January 2025. Full details have been sent to relevant families.

### **Secondary School Applications**

A reminder that families of children in Year 6 should have completed their online applications for a secondary school place by the end of this half term. This is very important to gain the best chance of securing a place at a preferred school.

### **Extended Provision:**

We are so pleased to be offering so many after school clubs currently; as well as our very popular YoYo Club. After half term these include chess, art, gymnastics, running and Young Voices.

Many of you will have heard that there is a government initiative to introduce Breakfast Clubs at all schools. In April, pilot schools will be supported to offer this provision by the DfE who will be reviewing their expectations ready for the start of September 2025. Setting up this provision is far more complex than it may appear and relies on being very well-staffed and well-attended every day in order to be financially viable. Any further news, will be shared in future newsletters.

### **ParentPay**

Our administration team have been working hard to install and undertake training on our new 'ParentPay' system that we intend will go live after the half term. Letters home with personal access details and information will follow very soon and after that time, payments can be made online. The system will be new to us all so we will all need to work on

familiarisation. Once logged onto the website, there is a parent guide and helpline should anyone have difficulties, though we do understand that the system is very user friendly.

### **Uniform Reminder:**

This is a polite reminder to all parents and carers that training shoes should not be worn in school routinely and that all jewellery, with the exception of stud earrings, is not appropriate for health and safety reasons. Elaborate hairbands and scarves should be substituted for simple, functional varieties please.

### **FOLS news:**

Following the AGM last week, we have new members of the FOLS committee.

Firstly, on behalf of everyone involved in our school, a huge thank you to Gemma Helme and Jen Harris who have stepped down this time. Over the last few years, they have been so committed in their roles as secretary and chairperson; organising some of our most successful projects including our Christmas and Summer Fairs, the Swimathon, Steps for Stories etc.

If you would like to get involved with FOLS your help would be more than welcome so don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the committee members.

Being part of FOLS connects you with other families; and makes a huge difference to the provision available to our pupils, as well as supporting subsidies for trips and events for our families!

Current committee leads are: Amy Barrington – Chair; Fiona Bond – Secretary; Jan Mason – Treasurer.

### **Christian value – Truth**

Truth is such an important element of life and sometimes we need courage to be honest and to avoid temptation. In our worship time and our discussions in class, we ask 'Big Questions' about why it can be difficult for us to face the truth, to admit the truth or to even recognise what is true. We also ask what it means to be true to oneself.

*'Tell the Truth to each other'. Zechariah 8:16*

### **Mrs Mason's Animal Quiz**

A huge thank you to Mrs Mason who has put together a lovely anagram animal quiz sheet to generate some income for our school fund that supports all those lovely extras that the school would not be able to consider normally; examples are production costs for Nativities and other performances and our annual Christmas Tree! We will be hopeful that families feel able to sell 10 quizzes each at £1 per quiz and we would love to hear suggestions from parents that work in a people facing environment that might be able to take on a few more for our cause. Letter and information will follow very shortly.

Reminder that school closes next Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October at the usual time of 3.15pm and re-opens at 8.35am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

With my very best wishes



Jane Farraday