

Welcome to EYFS Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Autumn term in Class One for our Nursery and Reception children. I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely summer break with friends and family. This is a very special term for the children, both those new to Class One and those returning after the summer term.

Teaching and learning in Nursery and Reception

Mrs Haslam continues to have overall responsibility for the teaching and learning in Class One and is supported by Mrs Harwood, Miss Butler, Miss Manderson, Miss Rockcliffe and Mrs Lawless. Some of our sessions have children in both Nursery and Reception being taught together, in other sessions, Nursery and Reception will be taught separately.

Your child's Key Person

We adopt a key person approach for all children in EYFS at Levens. This approach helps your child to feel safe, confident and cared for whilst they are in school. It also means that there are named members of staff to act as the main points of contact for you and your child. Mrs Haslam is the key person for all Nursery and Reception children.

Lunches and snack

A reminder that Reception children can enjoy a free hot lunch in school each day; we encourage all children to take up this offer! It is really helpful if you can discuss with your child the lunch menu for each day (available on the school website) before they come into school so they understand the options available and are happy with their choice. **Please note that if your child is bringing a packed lunch, we are a strictly nut-free school and have several pupils with severe nut allergies. Please ensure all packed lunch items are nut-free and that grapes and cherry tomatoes are cut in half length ways.** All children in EYFS will receive fruit and milk every day and we kindly ask that children do not bring additional snacks to school. Children should bring a named water bottle to school which will be sent home each day for washing and refilling.

Clothing

Children need to be suitably dressed for the weather each day which may include bringing a coat, sun hat and cream to school at the beginning of the term. During the warmer months, please apply sun cream to your child in the morning before they arrive in school and if they need more during the day then a bottle which is named can be brought into school and left (please note they cannot be sent home each day). All children require a pair of wellies and a puddlesuit/waterproofs which can be left in school. **Every child also requires spare sets of clothing which include underwear. These do not need to be additional items of uniform.** Please can all items of clothing be clearly labelled with your child's name.

PE

PE for children in Nursery and Reception this year will be on **Thursdays**. Please can your child come to school on a Thursday, dressed in their PE kits which they will remain in for the day. Please note that school PE kit is optional for children in Nursery, however children should come in trainers and tracksuit bottoms/leggings and a suitable top if they are not wearing a school PE kit. A reminder that PE kit for children in Reception is black shorts/jogging bottoms or leggings, trainers and a blue PE t-shirt and Levens hoodie.

Reading

Please look out for further details regarding our annual reading meeting for parents of children in Reception. We will be in touch regarding a date shortly.

Class meeting

Please join us at 3.30 on Monday 7th September if you can.

Trips

Please see below information regarding our proposed trips for the current academic year for Reception pupils along with approximate costs:

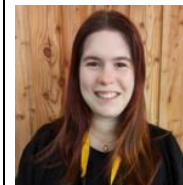
Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Woodmatters £16.25 Theatre £12.60	N/A	Butterfly House/Zoo £21 Outdoor education £10.00

Learning

Please see the information below for details about the learning opportunities children in Nursery and Reception will have in the Autumn Term. The children will learn through a combination of self-initiated independent learning and adult-led activities as well as opportunities through provision in the classroom. We value highly the children's interests and what sparks their imaginations which is why we have chosen to use different books to base their learning around rather than structured topics. This provides the children with greater autonomy over their learning and may mean we spend a few days on something or even a few weeks. Stay tuned to the school blog and Tapestry to see where the children take us on their learning journey... Please do get in contact with me via the class email address if you have any queries or concerns: class1@levens.cumbria.sch.uk

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Haslam and the Class One team

					
Mrs Haslam	Mrs Harwood	Miss Butler	Miss Rockcliffe	Mrs Lawless	Miss Manderson

A gentle reminder that whilst Miss Manderson is a member of staff, she is also a parent of a child in Class One. Please look out for her staff lanyard to identify the times when she is here in a work capacity.



Autumn term 2026 – Super Me! Key texts this term...

Key learning in Nursery

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be focusing on settling into our new routines, getting to know each other and building relationships with adults. We will talk about who is in our family and the things we like and dislike. We will begin to understand and follow some rules and instructions and talk about different feelings.

We will practise taking turns, sharing and being independent.

Communication and Language

We will listen to stories, and talk about characters and events in books. We will learn and retell nursery rhymes and practise speaking in full sentences. We will begin to listen to our friends and take it in turns to speak. We will learn some Makaton signs and use these to describe what the weather is doing each day. We will use talk to express our wants and needs.

Physical Development

We will explore moving our bodies in different ways to develop strength and balance and use bikes, trikes and scooters. We will move our bodies to music and begin to use one-handed tools to form circles and spirals. We will learn how to use scissors safely to make snips in paper.

Understanding the World

We will talk about the changes we notice around us as it gets into autumn time and learn about why it is important to stay safe on bonfire night. We will use tools to peel and chop vegetables and find out about animals who live in different parts of the world. We will learn about Christmas and Diwali.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will copy and join in with singing songs and explore playing instruments. We will begin to learn how to make playdough, experiment with mixing colours and talk about our creations. We will begin to use tools to peel and chop and mark make using chalks, crayons and paintbrushes. We will have opportunities to take part in role play.

Maths

In maths we will begin to use the language of 'more than, fewer than, same as' when talking about groups of objects. We will hear and say number names and begin to order them. We will explore subitising to 3, build with shapes and blocks and explore repeats in patterns, positions and shapes.

Literacy

We will begin phase 1 phonics where we will explore instrumental, environmental and body percussion sounds.

We will draw basic pictures, explore mark-making in different ways and practise forming the pre-writing shapes of circles and spirals. We will spot and suggest rhymes, take part in National Nursery Rhyme week and contribute to our daily book vote. We will look at pictures in books and talk about what is happening. We will practise recognising our own name.

Key Learning in Reception

Personal, Social and Emotional Development We will be discussing different emotions and how they might be shown. We will practise talking about how we are feeling and beginning to think about and consider the feelings of others. We will contribute to developing our own class rules to follow and will manage our own self-care needs independently. We will find out about foods which are good for us and why brushing our teeth is important.	Communication and Language We will be learning how to listen and understanding why listening is important. We will practise answering 'how' and 'why' questions and following 2-step instructions. We will join in with story times, using actions and repeated phrases. We will practise talking in front of a small group and answering questions during class discussions. We will learn and discuss new vocabulary and practise using it throughout the day. We will learn some more Makaton and practise using it.	Physical Development We will practise working co-operatively with a partner in PE, explore different ways to travel and how to negotiate spaces safely. We will use a tripod grip more consistently when using tools such as paintbrushes and pencils and form the letters in our name accurately. We will hold scissors accurately and practise cutting along straight and zigzagged lines. We will practise holding and using a fork and spoon correctly.
Understanding the World We will learn about ourselves and our families, talk about things we are good at and our likes and dislikes. We will learn about the celebration of Diwali and why Christians celebrate Harvest and Christmas. We will explore changes around us through autumn and winter, identify types of leaves and the trees they come from. We will find out about animals in winter and how in colder climates, they stay warm. We will look at basic maps to locate the polar regions and identify the animals which live there. We will learn about Remembrance Day and bonfire night and how to stay safe around fireworks.	Expressive Arts and Design We will take part in our Harvest celebration at church and in the Christmas Nativity. We will use costumes and props in role play and use instruments to explore tempo and dynamics. We will explore mixing colours and choosing colours for a purpose. We will talk about and share our creations and use some simple cooking techniques such as peeling, chopping and mixing to make our own soup. We will use different construction materials to build with and explore techniques for joining materials together. We will explore the work of the artist Jackson Pollack and create a piece of art based on his work.	Maths In maths we will match objects and pictures, identify sets and explore sorting techniques. We will compare amounts, size, mass and capacity and explore simple pattern rules. We will copy, continue and create our own patterns, subitise and represent numbers to 5. We will identify 1 more and 1 less than numbers to 5 and look at the composition of these numbers. We will identify circles and triangles, shapes with 4 sides and shapes in the environment.
Literacy We will learn letter names and the sounds they make for all of phase 2. We will learn to read high frequency and tricky words and spell some of them. We will form taught letters accurately and write our names independently. We will listen carefully to the sounds we can hear in words and write them down to form short words. We will read and re-read books which are matched to our phonics level and take part in book vote each day. We will use pictures to help us tell and retell stories and sequence stories we are familiar with. We will talk about what we have listened to, answer questions and begin to make basic inferences with support. We will go to the school library each week to choose a book to share with our grown-ups at home.		

Enrichment experiences this term...



National Nursery Rhyme week
Dental nurse visit
Harvest celebration in church (R)
Nativity performance (R)
Woodmatters trip (R)
A trip to the theatre (R)
Cooking



A few snapshots of our classroom this year!

