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

Wednesday 17th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since the half term break the whole school has been involved in two themed learning units; enriching our already broad curriculum. Just last week, we came to the end of our second of two weekly multi-faith weeks where each class explored the celebrations and festivals of one of our four main religions – Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam - with their class teacher. Their learning culminated in a longer than usual whole school assembly on Friday morning: each class shared their learning with the rest of the school. We also talked about why learning about worldviews is so important and central to the school's Christian values and fundamental to British Values; whilst also enriching and extending the knowledge and understanding developed through our Religious Education Curriculum, which has a more significant emphasis on Christianity.

We have also come to the end of our school-wide topic on the sustainability of our environment that started on 8th May by celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. Every class has shared their learning with the rest of the school and in doing so are starting to initiate change. For example, Class 3 have already introduced composting in school to ensure we dispose of vegetable and fruit waste separately to all other food waste. School Council are currently collating a range of ideas from children to create a 10-step Levens Environmental Pledge.



Class 1 have been making seed bombs to grow bee-friendly wild flowers.



Class 3 have introduced a system of disposing of our vegetable and fruit peelings so that they can be composted.

We have some amazing examples of writing for a real purpose, as children have written letters to a range of people in our community and further afield, including letters to the Prime Minister. There have also been opportunities to create some wonderful artwork too. All of this learning will be celebrated in our display at the 'Learning for Life' tent at the Westmorland County Show in September.



Just one of the imaginative rainforest models created by Class 3!

Class 4 investigating the water quality at Park End with NT rangers.



Further details of these events and others can be explored on our website blog here:
[School Blog – Levens CE School]

2025 THE PTI Primary Hub

See the calendar for a range of important dates coming up during the rest of this term which include:

- Infant Sports morning on the field from 10am – Friday 19th June
- Junior Sports morning on the field from 1.30pm – Friday 19th June
- Class 4 Waterwise and Fellfoot Park – Monday 22nd June
- Year 6 Young Citizens Event – Kendal Fire Station am– Thursday 25th June
- Class 3 WCS Heaves Farm Visit – Thursday 25th June.
- Moving-Up morning for all pupils – Tuesday 30th June.



Please also check the calendar for July events including: Leavers' Service, KS2 performances, Music Extravaganza etc.

Governor News:

It is with enormous sadness that I inform our community of the passing of one of our most valued, respected and long-serving governors, Jenny Berge. Jenny has served as a governor for very many years at Levens School: this has included her responsibility as vice chair on the full board and chair of our Curriculum and Staffing Committee.

With a very lengthy and successful career in education, both as a teacher and as an educational consultant for many years, Jenny brought so much expertise, experience and knowledge throughout her service to our school. Her contribution to curriculum development; raising standards in the quality of education across the school; and specific involvement in strategic leadership and governance has been incredible. We are all devastated to have lost such a wonderful colleague and friend; and her generosity of spirit, kindness and warmth will be missed by us all.

On behalf of everyone at Levens, we send Jenny's husband, Mike and all her family our sincere condolences and wish to let them know just how much Jenny was respected, valued and loved by staff and governors, both past and present.

Staff News:

I am pleased to be able to share news that Mrs Kathy Garvey will be starting at Levens from the beginning of the new academic year. Mrs Garvey is currently the lower KS2 lead at a large primary school in Tooting, London and is due to relocate back to the south lakes area during the summer holidays. She has many years of primary teaching experience; significant knowledge and skills across the curriculum; and a comprehensive understanding of how to support children with additional needs. I am confident that she will be a huge asset to the staff team and quickly develop positive relationships with the children and parents. Mrs Garvey will be teaching Class three until Miss Heaton takes over responsibility for the class for the remainder of the year, should her maternity leave end before July 2027.

Mrs Garvey will be in school on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th June to begin making arrangements and planning for the new academic year; including opportunities to meet with her new class.

I am also pleased to share the Miss Butler is returning to work this week after an extended period of ill-heath.

Class Arrangements from September 2026 onwards:

Class 1 – Nursery and Reception – Mrs Haslam
Class 2 – Years 1 + 2 – Ms Chapman
Class 3 – Years 3 + 4 – Mrs Garvey (until the Miss Heaton's return)
Class 4 – Years 5 + 6 – Mr Dean

Safety Near Open Water – Float to live campaign:
As you will be aware from all the media coverage across the UK during the recent heatwave, there were a significant number of untimely deaths. As a result, we ensured that keeping ourselves safe near water was talked about during our water-based activities on Lake Windermere with the Brathay Trust; and following this, Mr Dean led a whole-school assembly last Wednesday to share some important advice and guidance about how to keep yourself and others safe when playing near water. This is also a main focus of the sessions held every year for pupils in Class 4 with 'Waterwise' at Fellfoot, with this year's session taking place on Monday 22nd June.

I am pleased to also share the Westmorland and Furness Council have also responded to concerns around playing in and around water. Please see the attached letter to find out more about free water safety lessons for 7-14 year-olds in our local swimming pools. You can also follow the link here to the RLNI to learn more about the techniques our children need to know in order to keep themselves safe.

Class Photographs:
Tempest were in school on Monday taking our annual class photographs. However, in our commitment to reducing the pressures of school costs to parents and family members, Alan Marsden will be taking our year six leavers' photograph again this year; and in addition to this he has also agreed to take a group photograph of each class before the end of term. This will give parents and carers the option of receiving their class photograph completely free via email and/or purchasing the official photograph taken by Tempest.

Our informal school photograph day will be determined by the weather, so please look out for further news in the next few weeks or days.

An early reminder that school closes on Friday 17th July at 2pm for all pupils and re-opens on Wednesday 2nd September from 8.35am, after the summer break.

With my very best wishes

Farraday

Jane Farraday
Headteacher