LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

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Reception have enjoyed such a wonderful time in the woods this week with 'Woodmatters'

Dear Parents and Carers,

The most rewarding element of being a headteacher are the interactions I have with our children everyday. On Monday, I was lucky enough to accompany Class 3 on their trip to Castlerigg and Keswick Museum as part of their topic on the Stonehenge. As usual, Levens children were impeccably polite; enthusiastic about the visit; and loved sharing their knowledge with the curators at the museum and the volunteer who met us at the stone circle.

Members of the public, coach drivers and leaders from various external providers often comment on the conduct of our children offsite – and it's always a pleasure to witness this first hand. Graham at Woodmatters, was so impressed with the resilience and engagement of our Reception in the woods on Wednesday.

As usual, I have spent a lot of time in classrooms this half term, observing how the children have settled into their new routines and talking to them about their learning. I am also outside regularly, during both playtimes and lunchtimes with the children and have witnessed how well they are interacting with each other and enjoying a wider variety of different games and sports, both on our playground and down on the MUGA area. Our Year six buddies are taking their roles supporting their Reception partners with the utmost commitment and care – today they are having their lunch together for the first time this term!

In lessons, the children have already made amazing progress across the curriculum. Just yesterday, at our weekly staff meeting, we came together to look at writing across school from Reception through to year 6. Your children have already made incredible progress - Reception have been learning to form the letters that they are learning in phonics correctly through to Year six who have their written their own imaginative narratives retelling the story of Theseus and the Minotaur as part of their topic on the Ancient Greeks.

Thank you for your involvement with school so far this half term. It was great to see you so many of you at the initial information evenings held by the class teachers right at the start of term; we have lots of family members attending our first two Celebration Assemblies; and so many of you took the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher at our parent-teacher appointments earlier this month.

All Same – All Different:

Our assemblies on this theme have continued throughout the term with children across school really exploring what the terms inclusion and discrimination. We have talked about some stories from the Bible where Jesus modelled the importance of care and respect for everyone, regardless of their disability, beliefs or way of life. We have also really explored how many people's disability can be hidden and that we should not judge people based on appearance or their behaviours – sometimes there are reasons for this that we don't know or understand.

Please do get involved in conversations at home about the importance of acceptance and respect for everyone in our society, it is so crucially important that our children grow up with these fundamental values in order for them to develop as responsible, compassionate human beings.

Tomorrow, Olivia in Year Six is hosting a very special coffee morning at The Pavilion to raise money for The Williams Syndrome Foundation between 10am and 11.30am. After the half term break, she will be delivering an assembly to all our pupils and staff to continue to raise awareness of this extremely rare genetic condition that affects around 1 in 18,000 people in the UK.

Olivia would love to see you at her special event tomorrow, but if you can't make it and would like to support her fundraising, you can still donate by following this link: https://superkind.org/fundraiser/coffeemorning-for-williams-syndrome-foundation?qr=1

Governor News:



Class 2 on a recent trip to the woods!

I am very pleased to inform you that Emma Simpson has been elected by the board to be our new Chair of Governors. Emma is an experienced headteacher at Christchurch CE Primary School in Lancaster and has served on our governing body as a foundation governor for many years. Mrs Suzan Bishop has now stepped down from this role, but continues to be a very committed, engaged and knowledgeable member of the governor team. On behalf of everyone at Levens School, thank you Suzan for your valuable and insightful leadership. On a personal level, I have really valued your support for the wellbeing of myself and the entire staff team. We are so pleased you have decided to continue your role with specific responsibility for safeguarding, attendance and behaviour.

We have been sad to say goodbye to Rachael Newberry this term, who has completed her three-year term of office as a parent-governor. Rachael's experience in education has really contributed to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of curriculum and teaching across school and we are all very sorry to lose her.

Our new parent governor, Nicola Gilbert, has now joined the governing body and attended her first full board meeting at the start of the month. As head of boarding and on the senior leadership team at Dallam, Nicola brings with her a huge array of skills and knowledge. She has a daughter here at Levens, Lois in year 6, and another daughter, Libby, attending Cartmel in Year 10. Welcome to the governing body Nicola, and thank you for supporting our school.

After the half term break, we will be advertising two further parent governor roles. Being a school governor is a really positive, engaging and meaningful way to support our school and your roles as parent governors make such impactful contributions on so many different aspects of school business. If you would like to know more, the chair and I are more than happy to have an informal conversation with you or if you prefer, I am confident that any member of the current board would be willing to talk to you about how you can really support our school in a governor role.

FOLS:

Our AGM meeting is taking place immediately after half term on Tuesday 3rd November at 5.45pm in school and we would love to see many of you there. The fundraising by FOLS has been phenomenal over the last few years and really made a difference to the experiences our pupils have been able to enjoy. Please do come along if you can!

Pierced Ears:

As we are now more than 6 weeks beyond the summer holidays, we will be expecting children who have had their ears pierced to remove these for all PE lessons after the half term break. These can

be removed in the morning for the day, or pupils are permitted to remove them independently themselves prior to lessons and take responsibility for their safe-keeping.



Class 3 have enjoyed an amazing day at Castlerigg and Keswick Museum.



Information Evening for parents about – growing up in a digital world:



We are inviting you along to a meeting on Thursday 12th November from 6pm; hosted by Mr Dean, Mrs Haslam and myself about how technology affects our children; and what we can do as a school and as parents to navigate their experiences and behaviours online to be safe, respectful and positive.

At this event, you will get the opportunity to hear:

- about some of the things we are doing in school to support your child;
- understand some research about the impact of onscreen use on children's lives;
- receive some tips about how to engage in conversations at home and support your child;
- have a say in our new mobile phone policy
- join an open discussion and enjoy an opportunity to ask questions of us and each other about any issue around this topic in a safe, supportive environment.

This event is suitable for all parents regardless of the age of your children, but should not be attended by our pupils. We would really encourage you to save the date and come along. We will be serving refreshments in our hall from 5.45pm and the event will be held between 6-7pm.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very happy, healthy and joyful half term break and we look forward to seeing you all at the start of November when our doors re-open for another busy half term.

With my very best wishes

JFaraday

Jane Farraday