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

Friday 27th November 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had an opportunity to catch up on lots of news shared on our website blog recently.



On Wednesday of last week, 30 children represented our school at the Dallam Primary School Cross-country competition at Tristams Sports Fields in Heversham. Despite the very damp and miserable conditions, we had an incredible group of supporters cheering our runners along the sidelines, and every competitor showed amazing stamina and resilience as they ploughed on along the rough, slippery terrain to finish in what was undoubtedly everyone's personal best.

In true Levens style, we came away with individual medals and team placings too! Congratulations to Isabel, Sabina, Robin, Munro, Thomas, Eden, Austin and Piper who were all awarded with individual medals as they crossed the finish line. Congratulations also to our Year 5 boys who won gold; our Year 3 boys who won silver; and our Year 3 girls who achieved bronze.

Thanks to Mrs Helme (senior) and Mrs Mason for coming along as volunteers on the day – your support was very much appreciated by us all.





Thank you for all the support we received for our fundraising events during the week of Children in Need. Our special Fun-Run raised just over £100 for Children in Need; and on our special Pudsey Day a little later in the week, we raised £170 for Williams Syndrome Foundation, the charity that our children voted for, following Olivia's and Evie's very special assembly. Thanks to our School Councillors who organised our collection buckets and suggested our first open-air disco which was enjoyed by everyone during lunchtime!

Anti-Bullying Week:

Last week we spent some time in class and during our assemblies talking about this year's theme, 'Break the Silence'. We have linked this to all our work on inclusion and diversity this term, exploring why some people might be more vulnerable to bullying than others and why we must be prepared to challenge these behaviours.





At the end of the week, when we celebrate our children in the Golden Book, it is always wonderful to recognise the kindness and respect our children show for each other and for the adults in school.

Attendance – Every day counts:
As we approach the time of year when we experience the greatest number of absences due to winter bugs and viruses, please take time to refresh yourself with guidance from the NHS on when your child should and should not attend school. Sometimes, making that decision at 8am in the morning can be a difficult one as it is not completely apparent how you child's symptoms may develop or subside during the morning. Generally, if you child has cold-like symptoms e.g. sore throat, headache, cough or runny/blocked nose, they can be in school if they feel well enough. Pain relief in the morning can alleviate symptoms for a little while and we are able to administer further relief later in the day if by not taking the medicine your child might be absent. Please follow this link for advice from the NHS When is my child too ill for school?

Time off school for illness cannot be avoided, but every session that your child misses in school has an impact on them that can last far beyond just the lessons they miss. For example, if your child leaves school for part of the day to visit the dentist it can affect subsequent learning. Each lesson builds on what has gone before, and leads into the next step – if a child misses even just one English or maths lesson in a week, it is can be tricky for them to catch up with where the learning has moved on and this in turn can affect confidence and build anxiety. If you child is too ill to attend then please do keep them at home, but routine check-ups in school time should be avoided and holidays in term time are detrimental to your child's wellbeing and learning, even if it is just one day of absence.

Governor News:
Information about how to volunteer as a parent governor has been shared via email as we have two vacances coming up. Please do get in touch if you would like to hear more about this rewarding role. Nominations are due no later than next Friday 4th December.

Junior Snacks:
A reminder about what constitutes a healthy snack for our children at morning breaktime in the juniors. The list includes: fresh fruit, raisins, rice cakes, vegetable sticks, crackers and cheese, bread sticks. Cakes, crisps and fruit 'Winders' are not permitted please.
We also request that their morning snack is stored separately from their lunch box so that it is easily accessible and so that children are not tempted to tuck into their lunch early.

Thank you for your anticipated support and understanding. The children have been reminded this week by staff in school.

FOLS:
Following our recent AGM meeting, we have three new leading members on the committee. Huge thanks to Ben, Megan and Beth who have stepped up to the roles of chair, treasurer and secretary. They have lots of ideas about how we can continue to provide enjoyable and worthwhile events to support our school and our families to enrich the experiences of all our pupils.

Thank you once again to Amy, Jan and Fiona for being such a committed, enthusiastic and effective team who have served as the leading members of the committee for the last three years. We are all so pleased that you are going to continue to support FOLS going forward.

Digital Wellbeing:
Thank you so very much to everyone who came along to our presentation and discussion about online safety recently. Despite a small turnout, the meeting was extremely valuable to us as some of the feedback has provided us with some further consideration of the use of screens, particularly views on the use of online platforms for home learning.

We are producing a summary document which hopes to capture some of the information that was shared and discussed at our meeting, as well as some next steps that we hope to be able to share very soon. We have received some extremely positive feedback from the parents who were able to attend and we believe that there is a general interest within our parent body to host a similar event later in the school year. In the meantime, please do join the Levens 'Smart-free childhood' parent

WhatsApp group and take a look at the websites we recommend for parent support. The mobile phone policy is now published on our website and can be found here: Mobile Phones in School

Ofsted Inspection:
Just a reminder that are looking forward to an inspection soon and hope that you will be able to take a few moments to compete the Parent View survey, either now or once we notify you of the inspection starting. Schools are notified on a Monday morning, with pre-inspection meetings taking place online during the day; and the onsite inspection occurring all day Tuesday and Wednesday.

Christmas Events:
We have lots of special events coming up so please make sure you have those in your diary and refer back to our website calendar and other communication for further information:

Christmas Movie Night - Tuesday 1st December between 5.30pm-7.30pm:
Pupils should arrive back at school at 5.30pm in their chosen attire along with teddies, pillows and cushions. Please sign up before the end of today to secure a place.

Theatre Visit – Friday 4th December:
We leave school to travel down to Lancaster at 8.45am promptly so we are asking the children to arrive at school a little earlier – between 8.30-8.40am. The children will be offered an interval treat and are also requested to bring in a healthy snack (see the list above) and their water bottle.

Infant Nativity Performances - Tuesday 8th December at 5pm and 6pm:
Further details to follow.

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day – Wednesday 9th December:
Children are invited to wear a favourite jumper instead of their usual Levens fleece or jumper and enjoy a festive lunch in the dining hall. Information has been sent via email – please book on no later than **Monday 30th November**.

Non-uniform Day for all Pupils – Thursday 10th December:
Children are asked to wear their own clothes and donate something for the Christmas Fair for the tombola – chocolates, bottles, sweets, small games etc.

Musical Extravaganza – Friday 11th December between 9am-10am:
A chance to support our amazing musicians as they perform their rehearsed pieces to the school and their families. Please come along to enjoy a morning of musical magic!

Levens Christmas Fair – Friday 11th December between 5-6.30pm:
Please let a member of FOLS know if you are able to help on the night!

It's a busy build up to the Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you at some of the exciting events coming up through December.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

With my very best wishes

Farraday

Jane Farraday
Headteacher