

## Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A wonderful first half of the summer term is drawing to a close and thankfully we have seen some sunshine!

Let's start by celebrating our amazing winners and runners up who were congratulated by local artist Bob Sutcliffe at last Friday's Celebration Assembly.

Cerys, Pearl and Florence were all winners of the Levens Hall Topiary Competition with their incredibly imaginative and colourful creations. They each receive a personal commission from Bob! Our runners up, Munro and Max, also received prizes donated by both Bob and Levens Hall. The competition was entered by almost every pupil at Levens School, but also by local children attending other schools. Well done to everyone for your incredibly imaginative designs – I believe the judging was an extremely difficult job!

Bob is currently working in school each week sharing his expertise and knowledge with the staff and leading the children's current learning in art and design. So far, he has worked with Reception and Nursery on Kandinsky inspired 3D sculptures; Class 2's portraits in collage, inspired by Paul Klee; and class 3's water colour work on rainforests. I am currently working with Bob to organise a very special bespoke Art Day at Levens Hall for pupils in Class 4.





If you'd like the opportunity to work alongside Bob, other parents and some Levens staff, why not come to our 'Slurp and Dabble' evening on 27<sup>th</sup> June from 6pm. Tickets can be bought using this <u>link</u>.

Soft drinks, wine and prosecco will be available to enjoy whilst you paint!

Our wonderful tiles, have now been fired by Nigel Edmondson in his studio. We have received a kind offer from Ted's grandad to mount the tiles in the hall and we look forward to seeing their fabulous creations displayed together.







#### **Hot weather:**

A reminder to all families that all pupils should have sun cream applied before coming to school and bring a hat or cap on sunny days – if we are lucky enough to get any more soon!

Every child in school should also have a water bottle, which they can use throughout the day and refill in their classroom to ensure they stay hydrated and feeling healthy.

For safety reasons, it is advisable that pupils do not wear open-toe sandals in school as these offer no protection for children playing on some of our equipment or when they fall.

In cases of extreme weather, extra protection is taken to keep everyone cool, hydrated and sun-safe. We will advise parents accordingly if this becomes necessary.

#### **Uniform:**

Please order new uniform for September as soon as you can to avoid disappointment. Alternatively, our next pre-loved uniform sale takes place on the school playground from 3pm on Friday 21st June.

#### **Celebration Assemblies:**

We have enjoyed some wonderful Friday mornings of celebration this term already and we always look forward to welcoming family members. Please do come along to share this time with us after half term if you can. The next one is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June for Class 4 and then Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June for Class 3. Further dates can be found on our website calendar.

#### **Etiquette in the Dining Hall:**

Staff at Levens are really very passionate about making sure all our pupils enjoy their lunchtime in the dining hall – it's such an important part of their school day. We encourage all the children to have good table manners; to use their knife and fork correctly; to sit at the table properly; to put their knife and fork together when they have finished eating. We often model what this looks like to children and reinforce our expectations to them regularly.

Some of our pupils, however, are reluctant to use their knife or don't know how to; they will bite food from their fork or use their fingers to push food onto the fork. Some of the junior aged children continue to request adult help to cut up their food and have to be encouraged to use their knife. We are sure that you uphold the same expectations when you eat together as a family at home and we welcome your support to ensure our pupils have polite eating behaviours and manners at the dining table, regardless of whether they are eating at home, at school or out in a restaurant.

#### **School Council:**

Our School Councillors are busy finding out what kinds of books our pupils would like in our new library in preparation for our trip to Waterstones bookshop in Lancaster after half term. These books will be bought with funds raised directly by FOLS! Further news to follow.

### Class 4 visit to Edinburgh February 2024:

Our next school residential is all booked and we are very grateful to every family who has already forwarded permission slips and the £50 deposit. School is already being invoiced for accommodation, train tickets and entrance to museums; therefore, if you haven't yet confirmed your child's place and paid your first instalment, this is now required please.

#### **Busy Summer Calendar:**

The calendar for next half term is ridiculously busy with a huge number of trips, workshops, visitors to school and enrichment days. These include our upper juniors' visiting Fellfoot for open-water swimming; Class 2's visit to the Lakeland Motor Museum, Haverthwaite Railway and Lakeside Steamers; Reception's Visit to the Butterfly House in Lancaster; our infant and junior sports events hosted by Barrow Raiders; our Year six Leavers' Service at St. John's church; and much, much more.

Please keep a close eye on our calendar and ensure that you refer back to our letters so that you know what your child requires for each of their adventures!

# Please note that we finish for the half term holidays this Friday at the usual time of 3.15pm.

The final leg of the year commences on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and we will be ready to welcome all our families and pupils from 8.35am on that morning.

School closes for the summer break at **2pm** on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July**. Let's hope that by then we have seen some more dry weather and sunny days.

Whatever your plans for next week, on behalf of all the staff and governors, we wish you a happy and healthy half term!

With my very best wishes

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Jane Farraday