



# LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new calendar year. It has been a very positive start and wonderful to welcome our six new nursery starters over the last few days.

I need to start with huge congratulations to our 10 intrepid cross-country runners who braved the cold and icy conditions to run at the Casterton event yesterday. Despite the nerves, it was all smiles from the entire team! Thanks to all the family members who transported the children to the event and cheered them along the way!



This week you will have received our class newsletters with valuable information regarding this term's curriculum, PE days, home learning expectations etc. There are some changes this term, so please do take some time to read this so that you are adequately informed. The class pages in the pupils' section of the website also contain updated class timetables and curriculum maps for the year. Class teachers will continue to post news on our website blog throughout this term.

The calendar is also being regularly updated so please keep checking back to ensure you do not miss early notification of a key date. Some key dates to note are:

- **Reception application deadline** for places in September 2025 is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- **Edinburgh Residential Information Meeting** at 5.30pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30pm for children and carers/parents.
- **Parent/Carer & Teacher Meetings** from 3.30pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Christian Value for the spring term:**

Our Christian value for the spring term is **Respect**.

Respect is about the way we think about and treat other people and our world. If we show respect, we have due regard for the wishes, feelings, beliefs and rights of all others; in our school; in our community and across our world. It's about our understanding and tolerance of all others and accepting difference. Respect is one of the British Values we promote in our school as well as one exemplified by Jesus in his life and his teaching.

'Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.' Romans 12.10

### **Snacks in the school day:**

Children in Class 1 and Class 2 continue to be provided with a free snack each morning supplied free to school. Furthermore, we have now decided to introduce free snacks to all our children in the juniors too. This may be a piece of fruit, bread sticks, dried fruit, rice cakes etc. We are keen to ensure all our pupils are able to have a healthy snack to keep them going through the morning until lunchtime and hope that this additional provision supports some nourishment and further brain-power! If your child continues to bring in their own snack, they will not need to choose one of the class snacks. We are also extending some variety into the snacks on offer at YoYo after school care.

### **Staff News:**

It was been very lovely to have Mrs Court back in school recently, and we are particularly pleased that she feels fit to resume her fulltime position at the start of this term. She has had the warmest welcome from children, staff and parents alike and has had already had a very positive impact throughout school.

As we start the new term, there are also some changes to our staffing arrangements, particularly regarding staff who support individual children with additional needs. If your child has an ECHP or you have any questions or queries regarding support for your child, please get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance. You will soon have an opportunity to talk to staff formally in our meetings coming up later this term.

### **Policy Updates:**

Please note that we have recently published some new or updated policies on our website for your information.

Of particular interest to parents and carers will be our new ***Handwriting Policy*** which is being implemented from the start of this term. This approach begins in nursery where the children are carefully taught the foundations for writing through mark making; and continues right up to year six where we expect cursive handwriting to be a fluent, automatic process to reduce cognitive load so that our pupils are able to focus on the content, technical accuracy and coherence when composing.

You can learn more about our policy and approach to handwriting by referring to the policy which is published on the English page of our website, our whole school online resource – **LetterJoin** – is also worth a look and can be used to support handwriting practice at home.

Our expectation is that learning completed at home, particularly by pupils in Class 3 and 4, is presented to the same high standards expected in school. All homework should be completed using a sharp pencil, and not presented using biros, felt-tips or marker pens.

We also updated our **Home Learning Policy** at the end of last term. This can be found on our website too.

If you would like paper copies of any policies please contact the office team who will be more than happy to provide copies for you.

### **Messages to class teachers:**

Often messages are passed to class teachers via the staff that are out on the playground in the mornings to greet the children. Although we want to support positive communication between home and school, there is a risk that messages are not always passed on, as staff

are busy supporting children from the moment the gates are closed and they step back into school. Can I therefore request that to ensure your message gets to your child's class teacher in the morning, this is emailed to the office by 8.30am so that the office team can share this with the relevant staff member via our register packs.

If your message, query or question is not urgent then you should please email your child's class teacher via the class email addresses. These are monitored two or three times every week.

**Emergency Closure of School:**

Please note that if on any occasion we are forced to close due to extreme weather or a problem with our heating or electricity supply, we would inform you as promptly as possible. This would be communicated by text and via email and would only be in extreme circumstances. Class teachers would be in touch via email to offer suggestions of work that can be completed, mostly independently if your child is in Class 3 or 4, at home.

**Celebration Assemblies:**

Dates for the next round of celebration assemblies are all now on the calendar so please make a note of the relevant dates for your child. The first one is for parents and family members of children in Reception and takes place at 9am on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Farraday".

Jane Farraday