

Although we have been back at school for two weeks now after Easter, I hope you were able to enjoy some time with your families over the break and take advantage of the slight relaxing in the restrictions around COVID. As well as the Newsletter this fortnight, you should also have a copy of our new vision statement and a covering letter. I would like to thank all those parents who were able to contribute to the document; your responses were very valuable!

Golden Awards (March 26th/April 16th)

Year 1: Toby H-P/ Harriet

Year 2: Casey/ Thomas

Year 3: Zarina / Grace

Year 4: Luca / Joe

Year 5: Spencer R / Lily

Year 6: Toby F / Yusuf

Taylor in Y6 received a Headteacher Award in the last week of Spring Term. Well done everyone!

Mr Abbott

Last Friday was Mr Abbott's final official day as part of the Levendale family, as Mrs Page returned to her teaching post from maternity leave on Monday 19th April. I would like to place on record my gratitude to Mr Abbott for the work he has done whilst at Levendale: joining the school in the middle of a pandemic, where only a handful of children were actually attending school after Easter 2020, was not what anyone had envisaged when we appointed him! Since that time, he has proved hugely popular amongst children, parents and staff alike and really found his calling as a Seesaw expert. We will really miss Mr Abbott and wish him well for his future endeavours – thank you from all of us at Levendale!

**THANK
YOU!**

PTA news

Plans for the Summer Festival are taking shape, on the premise that we hope to be able to run this traditional fundraiser in the Summer Term as 'normal'. More details will follow.

In other PTA news, a dedicated and hardworking bunch were at work on the school site last weekend, digging holes and mixing concrete for the bases for the new shade sails that the PTA have purchased. These will be placed on the school field to allow for additional shade during the summer months for those children who are not sun bunnies! The posts themselves were installed on Wednesday evening this week and the sails themselves are due to be installed this weekend. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the PTA for funding this venture and to Nick, the parent of one of our PTA members, who oversaw the whole project superbly. At the same time as the sail preparations were being made, other PTA helpers rejuvenated our Wildlife Garden by some serious pruning and laying a new path/pond observation area with materials left over from the post installation. Yet again, our PTA have proved to be worth their weight in gold, many times over!



Over Easter, the new heated cabinet for the donated defibrillator was installed by Jason Taylor, a parent of a child in school. Once fully registered, this means we will have a defib on site (located close to the Nursery entrance) for school and community use. Thank you to the PTA for funding the cabinet, to Jason for installing it and to BAM Construct UK for the defibrillator itself. This will be a huge asset, not only to the school but to the wider community as well.

COVID update

Whilst rates regionally and nationally seem to be on the decline (and vaccinations are being given to more and more adults), we must still remain vigilant and I therefore ask for your continued adherence to our protocols. **Please do not send your children in to school if they display any of the three official symptoms of COVID**, even if you believe the symptoms are indicative of an unrelated ailment. The three symptoms are: an elevated temperature (Government define this as where the chest/back feel hot to the touch, although a temperature of 37.8°C or above remains a useful benchmark), a new persistent cough and/or a loss of taste/smell. A test should be sought at the earliest opportunity. **This also applies to any other member of the household if symptoms are evident: children should not be sent into school where a member of the household is symptomatic until a negative test result has been obtained for that household member.**

Reporting of symptoms/test results can be done either by calling the School Office (01642 783684) or by emailing the dedicated email address that was set up last year: covid@leventale.org.uk.

Staffing for September

Although we are only in the early stages of Summer, planning for September is gathering pace. Once teaching staff deployment for September has been confirmed, you will be informed as soon as possible. Our annual 'moving up morning', where children visit their classrooms for the following year, will potentially be held on Friday 2nd July when the majority of our Y6 will be visiting secondary schools. This is, of course, dependent to a certain extent on whatever restrictions may still be in place at that point.

Parents of children who are transferring to Conyers in September: I have been asked at a recent Trust meeting to encourage anyone who may have financial difficulty with obtaining uniform for September to contact us at the earliest opportunity so we can look at whether there is any assistance that can be offered. Please do let us know if this is the case.

Class vacancies

We have seen a steady rise in numbers across school since September, with Y3 in particular attracting five new children in a relatively short space of time. However, we still have spaces within school, especially in the current Year 1 and also look to have spaces in Reception for September, a far cry from last year when we couldn't meet demand – if you know of anyone who is moving to the area, or who is considering a move of school for another reason, please do point them in our direction!

Dates for your diary

March		
	26	Break up for Easter
April		
	12	Start of Summer Term 1
	15	Mr Thoburn (Conyers) in school for a Science lesson with Y5.
May		
	3	May Bank Holiday – school closed
	7	NSPCC Number Day
	17-19	Y6 residential at Robinwood
	28	Break up for half-term
June		
	7	Start of Summer Term
July		
	9	Annual reports sent to parents
	10	PTA Summer Festival
	16	Break up for summer

