



Newsletter No. 249  
September 10<sup>th</sup> 2021  
[www.levendale.org.uk](http://www.levendale.org.uk)



Welcome back for the first term of the new academic year! I hope you have all had chance to relax and enjoy some family time together over the summer. Unfortunately, it wasn't the start to the term we had hoped for with the hot water system breaking down on our return last week; I can only apologise again for the disruption our enforced closure to children on Monday will have caused. We did however bring forward another PD day to Monday 6<sup>th</sup>: this means we timetabled some additional staff training and this won't need to take place later in the year. Since the children returned on Tuesday, they have settled in really well to their new classes, although the increased freedom on the playground before school starts appears to have caused some confusion after eighteen months of restrictions!

### COVID update

In many areas, we are back to normal in terms of the way school is organised. We are no longer subject to restrictions on children mixing and the way that positive cases within the school community are treated is now different. Children of primary age (and double-vaccinated staff) are no longer required to self-isolate as close contacts of a confirmed positive case and school are no longer asked to act as representatives of track and trace. Please do continue to let me know of any symptoms or positive test results via our dedicated email address of [covid@levendale.org.uk](mailto:covid@levendale.org.uk)

### Reading books

A very comprehensive letter around approaches to reading in school was prepared by Mrs Carnelly and Miss Waring then sent out last term for you to read in advance of September. An enormous amount of work has gone in to revamping our reading scheme books (supported by very generous donations from our fantastic PTA) and your continued support of this is greatly appreciated. Could you please ensure that no water bottles are kept in book bags as, in the past, we have regularly had books spoiled by spillages and accidents.

### PTA update

Following a successful bid by the amazing PTA, Persimmon Homes have awarded us a £1000 grant for sports equipment in school. This will make a huge difference and we can't thank the PTA enough for all the work that went into the bid.

### Cleaning team

One of our cleaning team, Mrs Campbell, is intending to retire at the end of September and we are therefore currently looking to recruit a cleaner to fill this position. More details are available at <https://bit.ly/3jUBwsm>

### Inter-school sports

We will see the traditional inter-school sports competitions resume this term, with the Level 1 tournaments taking place at Conyers. This term, we are expecting to have the cross country for children in Y3-6 who qualify in our in-house trials (Conyers tournament is to be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September). Unfortunately the tag rugby competition clashes with the cross country and therefore children cannot attend both this year. Another step closer to normality! Information regarding the cross-country trials for Y3-6 children and the two Conyers competitions will be sent out in due course.

### Dates for your diary

Sept	22	Y3-6 cross country at Conyers
Oct	22	Break up for half-term
Nov	2	Start of Autumn Term 2
	15-26	Y5 swimming
	19	PTA panto!
Dec	17	Break up for Christmas
Jan	4	Start of Spring Term 1
Feb	18	Break up for half-term
Feb	28	Start of Spring Term 2
Apr	8	Break up for Easter
	25	Start of Summer Term 1
May		Y2 test period during May
	2	May Day bank holiday
	9-12	Y6 SATs
	16	Y6 residential - Robinwood
	27	Break up for half-term
Jun	6	Start of Summer Term 2
	6-10	Y1/2 phonics check week
	6-24	Y4 multiplication check period
Jul	21	Break up for Summer

We will be confirming dates for parent consultations and other school events shortly. As a result of having to use a PD day for our enforced closure on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, we now have two more to allocate and these will be confirmed once finalised.

