

NOVEMBER 22

LEVETT SCHOOL NEWS

The Levett School

Positivity | Determination | Reflection | Integrity

Dear Reader,

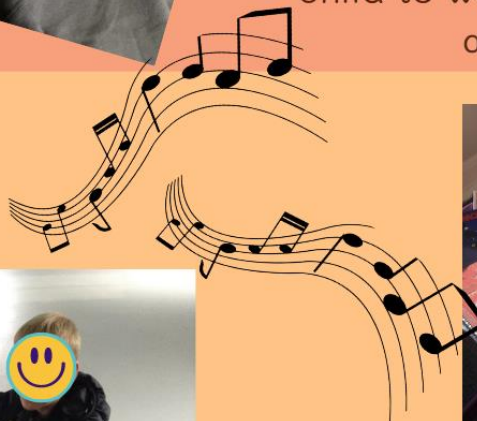
Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter. It is difficult to believe that we're already in the second half term of the school year, with Halloween and Bonfire night gone and Christmas rapidly approaching.

Last half term was challenging for Levett due to Covid again, with two thirds of classroom staff testing positive over a 2-week period; resulting in closure of the school until sufficient staff were well enough to return to work. To reduce the spread of Covid please remember to stay at home if you test positive and get your booster vaccination when invited to do so.



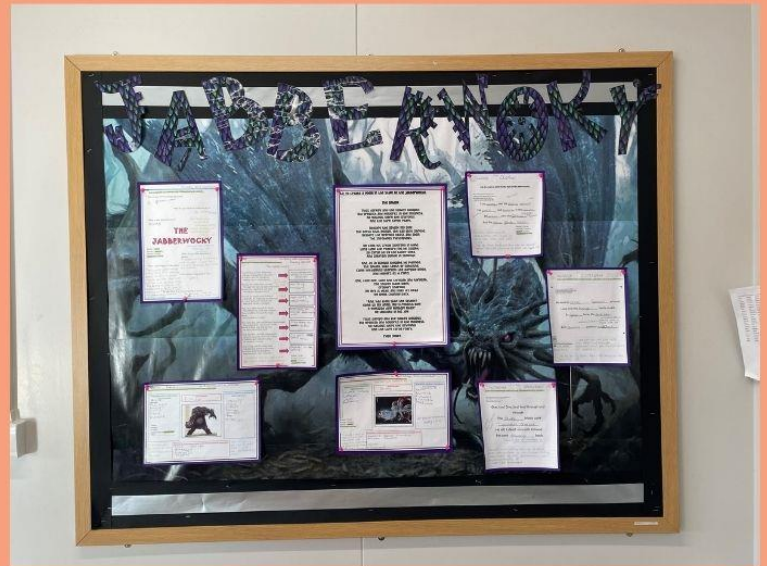
Levett Pupils have had some fantastic experiences since September, including the introduction of the new school uniform, which looks fabulous — thank you for encouraging your child to wear their Levett t-shirt and sweatshirt

In music, year 7 pupils have been showing the skills that they learnt last year



Miss Place and Mrs. Goddard became Literacy Champions for the charity Literacy Trust. We were very fortunate to be gifted some fabulous books.

In English, Year 7 have been looking at the poem "The Jabberwocky". In lessons we have created our own beasts and used our own portmanteau words to create our own versions. This is the display of the work that we have created!

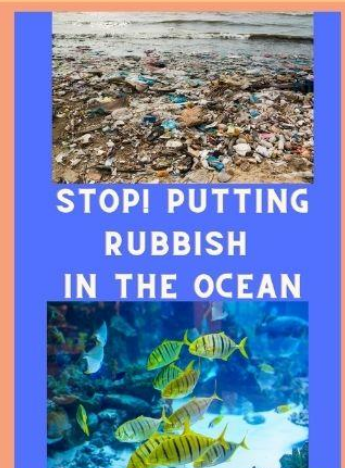
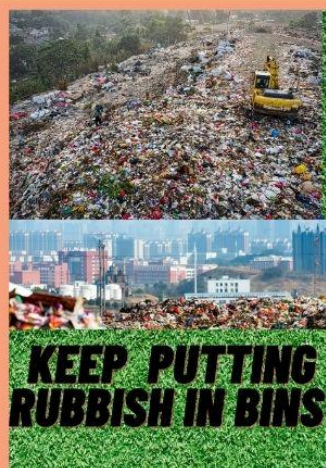


No More Knives or County Lines

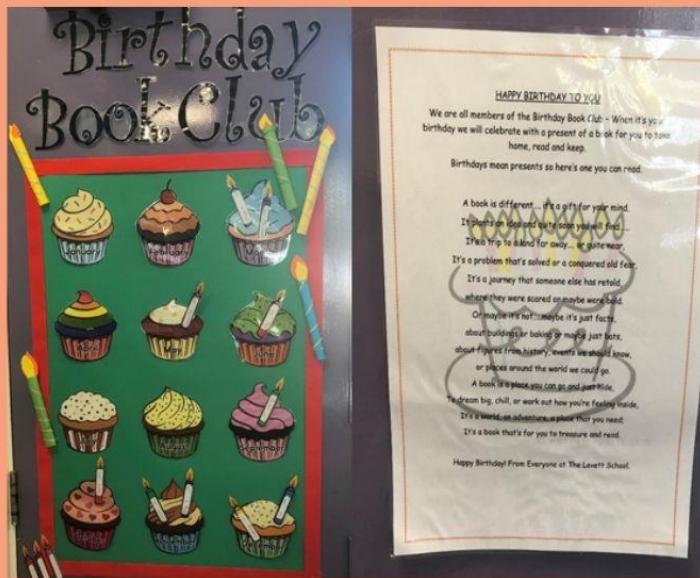


Christina Gabbittas came to visit us in school to talk to us about Knife Crime and County Lines. She had an animation which showed us how easy it would be to get involved in something that could lead to a criminal record or worse, someone being badly hurt. We asked some interesting questions and Christina was so impressed with us she asked us to be part of an exciting project she is running next year! All will be revealed soon!

In ICT Upper site have been creating posters to promote saving the environment. Pupils used Canva to design their posters, inserted photos and created their own company logos.



For Bonfire night we looked at why we celebrate this day. Some pupils already knew lots about Guy Fawkes, some amazing artwork was created, along with some marvelous poetry reading. Pupils and staff worked together to ensure everyone knew the do's and don'ts of Fireworks and Bonfire Night safety.



As we are now members of the Literacy Trusts Literacy Champions network Miss. Place and Mrs. Goddard have been lucky to receive a set of books which can be used as birthday presents. We know the importance of reading in school, but it is also just as important to read at home too. We hope these new books will make lovely bedtime reading.

We were very lucky to have the author Kerry McIntosh read us a chapter of her new book Rory Green Secret Agent to the Queen. Kerry met us online and we were able to learn about how she chooses to write about the climate and her own experience of school. We have been chosen to be the first to hear this story and she is going to send us a copy to keep along with the audio book to listen too. We are going to do a review for Kerry to tell her what we think of it.



The Royal Visit

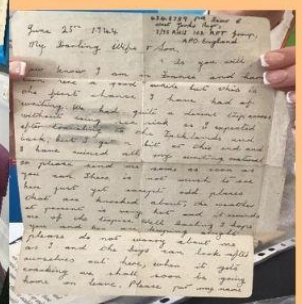
A few of our Upper site pupils and staff were fortunate enough to get the opportunity to attend The King's visit to Doncaster



We will remember them ...

Our topic this half term is about war. We were very lucky to have Miss Webb's Grandad, Mr. Fear, come and speak to us about his childhood during WW2. He explained about his parents and how his father had been a soldier in the Falkland Islands. We all enjoyed looking at the old photographs, newspaper clipping and seeing the inscriptions on the medals and coins.

Thank you so much Mr. Fear.



As you can see there are many great opportunities for pupils, in addition to a formal curriculum. For children to get the most out of all elements of school life, good attendance is crucial.

There are 190 days in the school year — this means there are 175 days off from school!

If you are struggling with attendance and need some support, school is here to help. We are only a phone call away and we will do what we can to support you.

Don't forget, we hold regular attendance competitions for pupils and parents too! Please visit our website or twitter for more information.

www.levett.doncaster.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/attendance



Families across the country are struggling with finances at the moment. Financial pressures are likely to become more of a problem as we approach winter and the demand for heating and buying Christmas presents becomes greater.

At Levett School, we recognise the difficulty that many people will be facing with cost of living issues, in particular due to the rise in fuel and energy bills.

Below are details and links to national and local sources of advice, support and financial assistance that may be able to help you and your family. Please also be mindful of scams during this time — never give your bank details to anyone without being sure of their identity.

We hope you find this information useful should you need to use it. If you have any concerns, particularly about how cost of living issues may be affecting your child, please do contact the school on number and we will listen and aim to help as best we can.

Please note: In all instances where you have an emergency expense issue, such as paying rent, you should contact your local Citizens Advice service and the council.

Local support

✱ **The Trussell Trust** — this charity operates a network of foodbanks and provides confidential crisis support. The school can provide food vouchers for eligible parents to be exchanged for a minimum of three days' emergency food. Available at local centres, by telephone (0808 208 2138) and online at trusselltrust.org/get-help.

✱ **Food Aid Network** — in addition to Trussell Trust foodbanks, independent foodbanks may also be available near you. You can check a map for local support at <https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/our-members>.

✱ **Citizens Advice** — an independent organisation specialising in confidential information and advice on legal, debt, benefit and housing problems. Available at local advice centres, by telephone (0808 223 1133) and online at citizensadvice.org.uk.

Financial support

- ✚ **Turn2Us** — a charity helping people living in poverty in the UK, specialising in information on welfare benefits and charitable grants. Available by telephone (0800 802 2000) and online at turn2us.org.uk.
- ✚ **StepChange** — the UK's leading debt charity offering expert debt advice and free debt management. Available by telephone (0800 138 1111) and online at stepchange.org.
- ✚ **Money and Pensions Service** — a government service providing impartial and free guidance on money and pensions. Available by telephone (0800 138 7777) and online at moneyandpensionservice.org.uk.
- ✚ **MoneySavingExpert** — a consumer finance and discussion website focussed on providing advice and tips on how to save money, including a dedicated cost of living crisis section. Available online only at moneysavingexpert.com.
- ✚ **Migrant Families** — online tool available that will help you find out what support you may be eligible for as a migrant family. Available at migrantfamilies.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/. This forms part of the NRPF Network, available online at <https://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/> and through regional networks.

Household bills and goods

- ✚ **British Gas Energy Trust** — a charitable trust providing advice on energy bills and grants paid directly to energy suppliers to help clear debts. Available online only at britishgas.co.uk/energy/British-gas-energy-trust.html.
- ✚ **Ofcom** — Ofcom has a list of available social tariffs; these are cheaper broadband and phone packages for people who claim Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits. Available online at ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs.
- ✚ **CCWater** — the Consumer Council for Water is a statutory consumer body for the water industry in England. They have an advice hub with information and tools to help reduce water bills and access financial schemes. Available online at ccwater.org.uk/households/help-with-my-bills/. (Please note: Every water company should have a social tariff scheme to help low-income families — check with your provider for more information.)
- ✚ **Freecycle** — a grassroots and non-profit organisation that allows people to claim household items for free. Available online at freecycle.org.
- ✚ **Family Fund** (parents of disabled or seriously ill children only) — this charity provides families raising a disabled, or seriously ill, child on low incomes with wide-ranging grants for essential items, such as kitchen appliances, clothing, bedding and play equipment or technology. Available online at familyfund.org.uk/grants.
- ✚ **Fuel voucher** — if you use a prepayment meter and cannot afford to top it up, you may be able to obtain a fuel voucher. Contact your local council for help getting one.
- ✚ **Energy debt grants** — a number of energy suppliers offer grants to customers in need. Check with your supplier's website or contact them directly for more information

Government benefits and support

⚙️ **Universal Credit** — a monthly government payment to help with living costs for those on a low income. Available to apply online at www.gov.uk/universal-credit or by telephone (0800 328 5644).

⚙️ **Short Term Benefit Advance** — those in urgent financial need may be able to get an advance on benefit payments, which is paid back later through benefits without interest. Find out more at gov.uk/short-term-benefit-advance.

⚙️ **Cost of living payments** — a government support package to help mitigate the cost of living crisis. Factsheet available online at www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-support-for-the-cost-of-living-factsheet/government-support-for-the-cost-of-living-factsheet. Payments are made automatically to those who are eligible so there is no need to apply — if you think you are eligible but did not receive a payment, make a report online at secure.dwp.gov.uk/report-a-missing-cost-of-living-payment/welcome.

Housing and rent

⚙️ **ACORN** — a community union that can provide support and advice for those who rent on housing issues and tenants' rights. Get in touch online www.acorntheunion.org.uk/contact.

⚙️ **Council Tax reduction** — low-income households might be able to get a council tax reduction. See if you might be eligible online at www.gov.uk/council-tax/who-has-to-pay and contact your local council for more information.

⚙️ **Shelter** — Housing charity that runs local services. You can access their emergency helpline (0808 800 4444) and find advice online at england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice.



Dates for your diary

Wednesday 14th December is Christmas Family Day at Levett — families are invited to attend Levett Lower site from 9.15am for a traditional family Christmas celebration, with Bingo, wreath making, book sharing, a musical performance, activities and of course Christmas dinner. Parents are invited to join their children for Christmas dinner, for small donation of £2.50. Please confirm with school by Friday 25th November if you wish to do so.

Parents and children are also invited to wear Christmas Jumpers for a small donation of £1. All donations will go to Save The Children.

We hope you can join us!

Our final school reward trip of 2022 will take place on Thursday 15th December - pupils will need 300 points or more to attend - Good luck!



Finally, Levett School would like to thank you for your continued contribution to the lives of our children, be that in the role of parent/carer or another professional working with us.