



# Langdon Primary School



Thank you so much to the parents who responded to the questionnaire which we sent out with July's newsletter. There were a significant number of parents who did not respond but I am assuming that for these parents, they are largely happy with the provision in school for their child, otherwise they would have contacted us. I hope that this is truly the case!

The responses we did receive have been very positive and I attach a summary of your answers to our questions below.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unable to Answer
1	My child is happy at this school.	77%	23%	0%	0%	0%
2	My child feels safe at this school.	85%	15%	0%	0%	0%
3	My child makes good progress at this school.	69%	23%	0%	0%	7%
4	My child is well looked after at this school.	85%	15%	0%	0%	0%
5	My child is taught well at this school.	69%	23%	0%	0%	7%
6	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	38%	46%	15%	0%	0%
7	This school ensures the pupils are well behaved.	69%	31%	0%	0%	0%
8	This school deals effectively with bullying.	46%	15%	7%	0%	31%
9	This school is well led and managed.	77%	23%	0%	0%	0%
10	This school responds to any concerns I raise.	77%	15%	0%	0%	7%
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	77%	15%	7%	0%	0%
12	I would recommend this school to another parent.	77%	33%	0%	0%	0%

Some of the really positive comments that were received were:

- 'A lovely, warm, welcoming, friendly school. I am pleased with how my son is doing. He enjoys coming to school every day.'
- 'A lovely, caring and family school. We are so pleased our children are here.'
- 'Wonderful teachers, Head Teacher and other staff. They know every child's name and are all polite, approachable and friendly.'

There was, once again, a mixed response to the homework question – there always is! Some parents felt that homework is too easy and some felt that it is too difficult. The comments perhaps sum up the difficulty that we have in addressing this issue to ensure that everyone is happy with the homework that we set:

- *'Good topics the children are given.'*
- *'My child seems to struggle on some things and breeze through others. Would hope for homework to be ability set.'*
- *'Excellent and well matched to the children's needs.'*
- *'It would be better to set the homework at the beginning of the week as my child is tired by Friday.'*

Just a word to clarify here, although homework is set on a Friday each week, it should be returned by Wednesday, giving children a chance to do it at the beginning of the week, rather than the weekend, if this is a preferred time.

Some parents felt that the Governing Body of the school were not well enough known and that they would like more information about their role in school. I have included a little about the governors later in the newsletter, so that you can see who they are and what they do in school. We also have a governor's page on our website that may be of interest to you. If you would like further information about the governors though, do ask and we will be able to put you in touch with a governor who can meet with you to talk about their valuable work in our school.

Other than homework and governors it is clear that, whilst some respondents may have individual issues, there are no other common areas that are raising concern.

A tiny minority of individual responses mentioned problems such as issues with other children or with an accident in the playground and these problems are the sort of things that I would urge parents to come and talk to us about, when they happen. That way we can deal with them straight away rather than leaving you to worry about them or feel disgruntled about until a questionnaire comes home. Myself and the staff are really keen to try and make your child's time at Langdon the best it can be, so do ask us to help if you are worried, we are more than happy to do so.

Overall, the responses have been positive with many parents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the given statements. I am delighted that you feel that we are doing a good job and that you are happy with your children's learning, progress and care but we always strive to do better. As always, if you have any concerns or queries, then please talk to myself or the teaching staff who will try to help.

### **GOVERNOR VACANCIES**

The governing body of the school has the job of maintaining a strategic overview of the school alongside the Head Teacher. They are responsible for ensuring we have a clear vision and plans, for maintaining high standards, for checking that school finances are appropriately used and for holding the Head Teacher to account. Governors help the Head Teacher to monitor performance in a school and undertake lesson observations, question pupils and parents and visit the wider school community events such as festivals and assemblies. The role of Governor at a school is an important one that requires commitment and dedication and is increasingly important in the eyes of the government. Currently, we have one vacancy for a Co-opted Governor and one for a Parent Governor. A Co-opted Governor would be someone from the local or wider community who would bring skills to enhance our current team. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this role, please make contact with Mrs Capell in the school office who will pass your details onto Mrs Sally Quartley, our new Clerk to the Governing Body.

## STAFF CHANGE

I am really sad to have to tell you that our Site Manager, Ray Turrell, will be leaving us on 16 November to take a promotion in another local school. Mr Turrell has worked at Langdon for six years and in that time has transformed our school site for the better. Who amongst us has not been in awe of the floral displays he has created with the children? He has worked tirelessly and flexibly in every aspect of his work at Langdon and although we will miss him enormously, we wish him well in his new school.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Attached to this newsletter (or sent home with your child if you receive newsletters on-line) is a copy of a document that the Head Teachers of our collaboration of schools are issuing to parents. At Langdon this booklet is particularly relevant because our attendance and punctuality continues to be of a concern to me, the staff, the Governing Body and the Attendance Officer at the Local Authority. I am also very concerned about the number of children who regularly arrive in school late. The staff report to me that these children find it harder to settle in class and miss the essential first teaching of the day, which is often addressing misconceptions from the day before or preparation for teaching to come.

In terms of attendance, we have a significant number of children who have dreadful attendance levels - at the point of writing

**17 CHILDREN CURRENTLY HAVE ATTENDANCE BELOW 96% FOR THIS YEAR**

and perhaps, even more alarming,

**FOUR CHILDREN CURRENTLY HAVE ATTENDANCE BELOW 80% FOR THIS YEAR**

which means these children have missed school, on average, for one day a week, every week, this year.

Trying to justify attendance levels in meetings with the governors or local authority representatives is never pleasant, it's a very awkward experience. Please help our school to improve attendance by sending your child in regularly and by taking holidays in the twelve weeks that we are not here. Please be assured that we will send your child home if they are too poorly to be here, but often children perk up when they get here and become immersed in their learning. Please also, remember that school starts at 8.45am and your child needs to be in the playground BEFORE the bell rings each day.

## SWIMMING LESSONS

The National Curriculum is the document that schools must teach from. It outlines subjects from English and Mathematics through to Foreign Languages, Music and Physical Education. We are told what, by law, we have to teach to pupils. In terms of PE the National Curriculum states:

'All schools must provide swimming instruction in either Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. In particular pupils should be taught to:

- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
  - Use a range of strokes effectively
  - Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.'

Swimming is therefore, in law, as important in our teaching as subjects like Mathematics or Science. So, unless your child has a very good reason then we expect them to go swimming every week. Please ensure that your child has their kit every week during their swimming term.

Schools receive a little money to help off-set the cost of swimming lessons, but not enough to cover the whole cost. For this reason, we ask you to contribute towards the cost of transport to and from the pool, the cost of swimming-coaches to teach the children and the cost of hiring the pool for lessons. If we do not receive enough money to cover the cost of lessons, then we have to divert money from other parts of our budget and this means that other areas of our curriculum suffer. If you cannot afford to contribute towards swimming lessons please come and talk to me and I will try to help. More information about this is detailed in our Charging and Remissions Policy.

## Remembrance Events

A huge well done to our school choir for their part in the Marlowe Theatre production of 'Return of the Unknown'. The choir were exceptional and really showed their skills off brilliantly. At one point I thought I was listening to a recording of 'Daisy Bell' and then realised it was the Langdon children! Fantastic! This was a wonderful opportunity for our children to be involved in a real production in front of a real audience and they rose to the challenge exceptionally well. I was also pleased to see ex-Langdon pupils taking part in speaking parts in the play and to find out from their parents how well they are doing now that they have moved on to secondary school. Of course, these events do not happen without the input from staff so a huge thank you to Mrs Newton and Mrs Capell for leading this for us.

On Remembrance Sunday, James Dyer and Abby Mallott represented the school at the Service of Remembrance at St Augustine's Church in East Langdon. They laid a wreath of white chrysanthemums and poppies on behalf of the school.

The names of the military personnel who died in the First and Second World Wars were read out during the service. This year is the centenary anniversary of the end of World War One. After the service I spent some time looking at the school log books to see which of the soldiers from our community who served in World War One and who died in conflict, attended the school when they were children. The following should be specially remembered today by the Langdon Primary School community:

**Ernest Amos** (born 11.1.81) who attended the school from 30 March 1885 until 6 January 1893.

**Fred Amos** (born 11.6.84) who attended the school from 30 April 1888 until he left on 13 December 1895.

**Robert Atkins** (born 8.1.1900) who attended the school from 12 December 1910 until 5 January 1914 when he left which is recorded as 'Gone to Work'.

**Arthur Finnis** (born 1.11.92) who attended the school from 10 February 1902 until he left.

**William Finnis** (born 4.8.96) who attended the school from 25 April 1910 until he left on 3 January 1911.

**George Foreman** (born 6.6.1890) who attended the school from 13 April 1896 until he left sometime later.

**Walter Gage** (born 18.3.92) who attended the school until he left, from 26 September 1899.

**William March** (born 21.9.1881) who attended the school from 6 July 1885 until he left in December 1893 when he is recorded to have 'Gone to Farm Work'.



## OUTDOOR CLOTHING

As the Autumn progresses and we move into the colder days, please ensure that your child has a coat in school every day. We do play outside in all weathers, rain doesn't even put us off, so it is important that the children have appropriate clothing for outside. Every child should by now have a pair of wellington boots in school so that they can play on the school field. Please send in your child's NAMED boots as soon as possible. Please note, that our school uniform policy states that children are NOT allowed to wear boots in school - school shoes only please.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
15.11.18	Leeds Castle Class Assembly Book Fair	2.30pm 3.00pm
16.11.18	Children In Need - wear spots and bring cakes for the cake sale Collaboration Council meeting Book Fair	1.00pm-2.30pm 3.00pm
19.11.18	Assessment Week for Years 1-6 Book Fair	3.00pm
20.11.18	Collaboration Multi-skills tournament for Years 1 and 2 Book Fair	3.00pm
22.11.18	Walmer Castle Class Assembly	2.40pm
23.11.18	St Margaret's Church Christmas Tree Festival Choir performance at St Margaret's Christmas Tree Festival	11.00am - 5.00pm 11.30am
27.11.18	Spelling Bee Final at Ash Cartwright and Kelsey School Flu Vaccine Years R-5	1.00pm
29.11.18	Dover Castle Class Assembly	2.30pm
30.11.18	Key Stage 2 trip to Marlowe Theatre - Cinderella PTFA Christmas Fair	am 3.00pm-5.00pm
3.12.18	Learning and Progress Meetings - information to follow	2.30pm-6.30pm
11.12.18	Deal Castle Class trip to Gulbenkian Theatre	1.30pm
12.12.18	Walmer Castle Class trip to Gulbenkian Theatre Full Governing Body Meeting	10.00am 3.30pm-5.00pm
14.12.18	Key Stage One 'The Nativity' - in the village hall	1.30pm
18.12.18	Last Achievement Assembly of the term Christmas Dinner followed by class Christmas parties	9.00am
19.12.18	Key Stage 2 Christingle Service at St Augustine's Church, East Langdon o/c end of Term 2	1.30pm
3.1.19	Staff Development Day - School closed to children	
4.1.19	Beginning of Term 3	
wb 7.1.19	Science Week	

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