

DECEMBER

2018-9



Langdon Primary School



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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

It was a pleasure to see the children so well represented at the St Margaret's Church Christmas Tree and Crib Festival earlier this month. The children had all helped to decorate our wonderful Langdon choir themed tree with choir boys and girls, candle lanterns and snowflakes. It looked amazing and was well received by the members of the Flower Guild and the visitors to the church. Mrs Newton and Mrs Capell led the choir in singing Christmas carols and songs and they sang beautifully. It was great to see so many of our parents and friends there to wish the choir well. The tree is still on display in the school entrance hall if you haven't yet seen it.



Kent Children's University

Well done to the children who graduated from the Kent Children's University this month at the mini-graduation held in school. All children at Langdon are part of the KCU and they receive a Passport to Learning to collect their learning credits in when they take part in out of school learning activities. All of our school clubs are approved by KCU but so are locations such as Dover and Walmer Castles, Dover Museum, Canterbury Cathedral and even Huntfun Treasure Hunts in Canterbury. There's even a holiday challenge which is available on the KCU website or their Facebook page which earns credits. Phoebe is currently our KCU champion, having gained a whopping 265 credits for out of school hours learning! With the holidays coming up it would be worth looking at some of the ideas on the KCU website to keep the children occupied in the holidays and to allow them to gain additional rewards. This term our graduates were treated to a Dominoes Pizza lunch as a reward for their hard work.



EMERGENCY CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS



In case we have snowfall over the next couple of months here is a reminder about what will happen in the event of more than a couple of inches.

I will endeavour, as far as possible, to keep the school open. The only reason I will close is if there is a substantial risk to the health or safety of the children on and around the school site. This includes on the roads surrounding the school which are prone to drifting and ice.

If the school has to close then I will announce this in six ways:

- A Parent Mail message
- The home page of the school website www.langdonprimaryschool.co.uk will run a message on the home page;
 - On the www.kentclosures.co.uk website;
 - On BBC Radio Kent and on their website;
 - On Heart FM and on their web-site;
 - On KMFM and on their web-site.

If you do not hear that the school is closed, then assume we are open and make your way in. Of course, I understand that local circumstances may dictate whether you feel safe bringing your children to school and I will understand if you feel that you would rather not drive, but I do urge parents to ensure that children do come in if they can get in.

If we can only make safe a part of the school then Years 5 and 6 will be expected to attend, but again please check the web-site and radio stations for details of this arrangement.

STAFFING CHANGES

I am pleased to announce that we have new site management and cleaning staff. Tracey Dodd has joined us in this additional role and will be working at keeping the school clean for us each evening. I am sure that she is going to do a brilliant job and welcome her in her new role. Mr Grahame Sear will be joining us in January and he will be responsible for the maintenance of the site, including the grounds. Mr Sear has many years experience working as a horticulturalist in a nursery and we hope that he will be able to use his skills to maintain our high standards of gardening around the school. He also has the practical skills to do the necessary repairs, carpentry and decorating to keep our school in good working order.

We currently are looking for someone to run our After School club every other week, starting in January. This would involve collecting children from their classes at 3pm, preparing them a snack tea and then providing play activities until 5.30pm. Currently, we have about half a dozen children who attend this club on a busy day. If you think that you would be interested in this role, please come and see me and I will be able to give you more information.

PTFA

What a fantastic Christmas Market we had this year. As always, there's a lot of organisation that goes on behind the scenes of an event such as this and I am very grateful to Hayley Erridge for driving this so efficiently this year. My thanks to her army of 'elves' who helped with putting up and taking down, manning stalls, making teas and wrapping gifts. My thanks to Santa too - another wonderful job done this year!

In total we made a profit in excess of

*** £1000 ***

which goes towards our funds to enhance provision for the school and our pupils.

STAFF CAR PARK

Please note, our staff car park is NOT to be used by parents or carers at the beginning or end of the day. We have noticed that a number of parents and carers are using the staff car park to drop off or pick up children from school. Please note that the staff car park is ONLY for staff use. Parents and carers can only use it with prior agreement from myself and only in exceptional circumstances. By prohibiting traffic we can ensure that we keep your children safe from accident in this busy, small space. We have an agreement with the Parish Council that we can use the car park at the village hall and parents and carers should use this where possible.

On a similar note, I have again had aggrieved members of the public complaining about inconsiderate parking on the roadways in the village. I understand that at times, parents have parked in 'resident only' designated spaces and that this, understandably, annoys the neighbours. I would urge you to avoid these spaces on The Street and in Westside. If you do, it makes my life considerably easier! I have made it clear that considerate, legal parking is something that I cannot, and will not, address. Parents who are confronted by residents who are cross about you parking outside their house, but know that they are in the right, should firstly, remain calm and polite at all times to avoid further conflict and then photograph their car in the position that is being disputed and pass this to me so that I can inform the PCSO.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you again, for your support for Children in Need. The number of cakes available for sale was amazing and the children looked great in their spotty clothing. We raised £192.67 for this charity which is a great amount for such a tiny school.



PE KIT - SPRING TERM

As we move in the winter months pupils will need to have clothing suitable to the weather. As you already know, most of our PE happens outdoors and this continues all year round. Your child will need the usual PE kit of a Langdon green tee-shirt and black shorts plus a pair of jogging bottoms (black or blue please and NOT leggings - these are not suitable for lessons). They can also wear a dark coloured sweatshirt on top of their PE kit. For all indoor lessons - gymnastics, dance, yoga - a Langdon green tee-shirt and black PE shorts is the required kit. If your child is in the class where swimming lessons are happening, they will need a swim suit and towel each week. Swimming is a part of the National Curriculum and not an 'opt in or out' lesson. All children have to go to swimming lessons unless we have a doctor's advice note to say they are too ill.

GOVERNING BODY

Just to keep you informed, and so that you can put names to faces, our governing body is as follows:



Chris Hilson
Chair of Governors



Antony Brenton Saunders
Vice Chair



Dorcas O'Dell



Patricia Evans



Sally Quartley
Clerk

We also have Noel Loughran who is a relatively new Parent-Governor and Emma Keem who is Teacher-Governor. We have one Parent-Governor vacancy. Anyone who is interested in finding out about being a governor, please contact the school office. There is more information about our governors and what we do on our school website.

SCIENCE WEEK

During the week beginning 7th January 2019, we will be holding a special Science Week in school. The children will be learning all about science and taking part in a variety of science related activities, from finding out about famous scientists to interesting investigations and experiments.

We are going to kick start the week by asking your children to dress up on Monday 7th January in anything that is science related. They could be dressed as a modern day scientist; a famous scientist from the past such as palaeontologist Mary Anning who investigated fossils, Thomas Edison the electrical scientist or astronaut Scott Kelly who investigated the effect of space on the human body or a scientific effect or object such as the digestive system, rainfall, the solar system or even a labelled plant or animal. There are lots of ideas on pinterest for those of you who subscribe to this site. On Thursday 10th January, Pfizers are providing a science presentation for the school. Because our school hall is not big enough for this event, we are going to use St Margaret's at Cliffe village hall.

Children will need to be dropped off there at 9.30am ready for a 9.45am start. There is some limited capacity to take children from school if they attend Breakfast Club on that day or live in the immediate area of East Langdon - **please let us know of this IN ADVANCE**. We will ensure that children are brought back to school after the event.

This is going to be a great week that we are very excited about. We know that you like lots of warning for dressing up and sorting out different arrangements so this gives about a month of planning time. We can't wait to see what you come up with to make this a great start!



ROTARY YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER 2019

This year the Rotary Club are looking for children to capture 'The Beauty of Nature' in their photographs to enter into their annual competition. The scope of the theme is as broad as you can make it and children are invited to photograph anything in nature that has its own beauty and is pleasing or interesting. Some years ago, we had a winner of the regional competition from Langdon School - one of our ex-pupils took a photograph of his uncle which the judges loved. So, simple ideas are often winners!

If your child would like to have a go at capturing an image over the Christmas period (another activity to keep them occupied over the holiday!), have a look at how to enter at

<https://www.rotarygbi.org/> or contact RotaryInDover@gmail.com or me to ask for information and an application form.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Our school has agreed to take part in a jointly run operation between us, KCC and Kent Police which is known as Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass has been set-up to help schools to provide support to children who have been present, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly physically or emotionally harmed when they witness or are involved, directly or indirectly, with any domestic abuse incident.

The school will receive a confidential email from Kent Police before 12 noon the morning after a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

I am the designated person responsible for Operation Encompass in our school and have been trained to use the information that has been shared in confidence and in ensuring that the school is able to make provision for the right support to be available for any child and their family.

We are always keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved. If you have any questions about Operation Encompass, please ask.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

The arrangements for the next couple of days are as follows:

Friday 14 December 2018

Key Stage One - The Nativity

1.30pm

East Langdon Parish Hall

(Parents and friends are welcome to join us for coffee and mince pies at 1.00pm)

Monday 17 December 2018

Hayley Erridge and Barbara Peel's table centre decorations workshop with all pupils

Tuesday 18 December 2018

Last Achievement Assembly of the term 9.00am

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Parties

Wednesday 19 December 2018

Key Stage 2 Carol and Christingle Service 1.30pm

St Augustine's Church, East Langdon

After the church service we will walk back to school, children can be collected at that point

Term starts again for children on Friday 4 January 2019

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
11.12.18	Deal Castle Class trip to Gulbenkian Theatre	1.30pm
12.12.18	Walmer Castle Class trip to Gulbenkian Theatre Kent Fire and Rescue presentation - Years 1-6 Full Governing Body Meeting	10.00am 3.30pm-5.00pm
14.12.18	Key Stage One 'The Nativity' - in the village hall Refreshments from 1.00pm	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	
16.1.19	Beginning of Wednesday swimming lessons for Y5-6	
18.1.19	Beginning of Friday Gym Club lessons for Y3-4	
29.1.19	Collaboration Chess Tournament	1.15pm
1.2.19	Collaboration Council Meeting at Dover District Council Offices	1.30pm
5.2.19	Collaboration Sports hall Athletics Tournament at Dover Christ Church School	1.00pm
13.2.19	Full Governing Body Meeting	3.30pm
15.2.19	Last Day of Term 3	

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