

2019-20



Langdon
Primary
School



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A very warm welcome back to school after the lovely Summer break. The children are settled and happy in school already and it has been great to hear of their holiday adventures and to see some holiday diaries.

This year our class names are all based on endangered animals - Panda Class (Red Pandas and Giant Pandas), Sea Turtle Class and Tiger Class. The classes will be studying their animals and lots of associated facts over the first three weeks of term before they begin a new Integrated Learning project.

All of their study will be linked to the National Curriculum. The class structure for this year is as follows:

Red Panda Class (Years R and 1) - Mrs Sara Seccatore (Teacher)
Mrs Andrea Trenchard (Teaching Assistant)

Giant Panda Class (Years 1 and 2) - Mrs Emma Keem (Teacher) and Mrs Emily Harris (TA)

Sea Turtle Class (Year 3 and 4) - Miss Jessie Langley (Teacher) and Mrs Karen Capell (TA)

Tiger Class (Years 5 and 6) - Mr Ryan Jones (Teacher) and Mrs Stella Britton (TA)

As always, if you have any queries or worries about your child's learning or well-being, then our staff team are happy to meet with you and discuss these. Where possible we ask that you speak to the teachers after school but if before school is the only time available then of course, we will meet with you then.

Finally, a very warm welcome to the new children who have joined Langdon this year - Riley, Phoebe, Tommy, Piper, Jamie, Archie, Jackson, Dexter, Noah, Abigail, Joel, Johanna, Lilia, Jamie, Cuba, Bobby, Teddy and Freddie. We are really pleased to have you join our happy and hard working school and can't wait to watch your learning journey.

CLUBS

Clubs this term will start the week beginning 16 September 2019. A separate letter will be sent with full details of the clubs and how you can book them.

Clubs will change three times each year, so what is offered this term may not be offered after Christmas. This way we can keep the opportunities we make available to the children fresh and exciting.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you that staff give their time to run clubs voluntarily. They are not contracted to run clubs as part of their work in school and they are not under obligation to do so. When staff choose to run a club, it is because they know that they can help children have new learning experiences and fun social time and that this benefits the child and their learning overall.



UNIFORM AND PE KIT

It's lovely to see the children looking so smart in their new school uniforms at the beginning of the year. I thank parents who take note of the uniform policy and ensure that their child is dressed appropriately according to this. As usual, children are allowed to wear their summer uniform of shorts and gingham dresses until the end of September. From Monday 30 September 2019 however, all children are expected to be in the autumn uniform which I have detailed below so that it's really clear what your child should (and should not) be wearing.

Grey school skirt, pinafore or trousers (shorts until Monday 30 September only)

White **polo** shirt (Please note: we **do not** have cotton shirts or blouses as part of our uniform policy, plain style polo shirts only)

Green **Langdon-logo** sweatshirt and/or green school fleece (these can only be purchased through the school office, knitted jumpers are not part of our school uniform and cardigans are not part of our autumn school uniform)

Sensible **black** school shoes (Please note: sandals and boots are not part of our uniform policy)
Socks and tights should be black, grey, green or white - no patterns or other colours please.

If you require any school uniform please speak to Mrs Howson in the school office. She has a small supply of good quality, clean second hand clothes too which we are happy to sell for a small donation, please ask if you are interested in this.

New children will be issued with a Langdon School high visibility jacket in the next few days. This remains the property of Langdon School and is on loan to the child for the duration of their time with us. If your child needs a replacement because they have grown then we will gladly arrange this for you on receipt of the old jacket. If you need a replacement because of loss or damage then there is a £5.00 charge. Children who walk to school should wear their jacket in order that they are visible to drivers when walking to school. Now and again, I give rewards to children for wearing their jacket on a Wednesday, which is our 'Walk to School' day. These rewards can come at any time but I never tell the children when so do remember to make sure your child is wearing their jacket in order to avoid disappointment.

PE uniform consists of a green **Langdon-logo** PE tee-shirt (available from the school office) and black shorts. Your child will need plimsolls or trainers - they don't need both. For the colder months we ask them to bring in a pair of jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt - any colour is fine, they just need to keep warm as many of our PE lessons take place outdoors. For dance and gymnastics lessons, which happen throughout the year, regardless of the season children must have shorts to wear. They can wear their joggers to and from the venue over the top of their shorts and tee-shirts to keep warm.

As usual, please remember to clearly label all of your child's school clothing. I am always amazed at the amount of lost property we have with no names! At the end of each term the lost property box is emptied, any unclaimed clothing is binned or recycled and it always seems a shame not to be able to reunite articles with their owners. If you require information about where to purchase stick-in labels, please ask at the school office.

OPEN EVENING

We will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' Parents Evening this year, on Monday 23 September from 3.00pm until 5.00pm for parents of children in Years 1 - 6. This is an informal parent consultation meeting to talk about how your child has settled into class and what they need to do in order to improve their learning. At this meeting we will not necessarily be sharing progress and assessment data - this will be discussed later in the term after our Assessment Week - although it may be relevant for some.

School Dinners

This year school dinners will cost £2.25 each. They **MUST** be paid for in advance of your child having a meal so please send the money in on the day, or earlier, so that we are not chasing you for payment. We continue to follow the Summer term menu at the moment and will issue new ones to you as soon as we receive them from Principles.

HOLIDAY DIARIES AND JOURNALS



Thank you to the parents and friends who have supported the children with their holiday diaries and journals this summer. I know from experience that this can sometimes be a 'challenging' task in the school holidays but the benefits are definitely worth it. Those that have come into school already look fabulous, full of lots of exciting and interesting experiences. The final date for diaries and journals to come into school is Friday 13 September. Each child who has completed six or more entries will receive a small prize and the best diary (based on each individual child's personal effort) will be rewarded with a voucher in the Achievement Assembly on Monday 23 September 2019.



HOMEWORK

You may have heard in the national press that Ofsted no longer ask questions about homework. This doesn't mean, however, that homework is not still important at Langdon. We believe that homework is good preparation for the habits of later life - both at secondary school, and beyond for those children who continue to study, but also for the world of work, where home working is becoming more and more common.

Our homework policy states that children, right from their first year in school, will have tasks to work on at home. We welcome parental support with this and actively encourage you to get alongside your child when they are completing tasks they have been set by their teacher.

In all year groups we expect children to read at home at night. Some early readers may benefit from a parent reading to them and talking about the book in the first instance. As children become more proficient as readers it is still important to read with them, to ask questions about the text in order to find out what they understand and to see if they can find hidden messages, motives or feelings. We know that our best readers are those who read regularly at home - three times a week or more makes a difference. Please remember to send reading books and record books into school **EVERY** day.

All children will also have spellings to learn and number bonds or times tables to practise too.

Throughout the year children will be asked to do tasks that link to their work in topics. They may be given a list of tasks to choose from or given a specific longer piece of work to do over a few weeks. Again, it is great to see parental involvement in these tasks and we thank you for this - we are aware that they can be challenging for parents at times!

In Key Stage 2 children will have regular, usually weekly, homework tasks linked to mathematics, reading or writing teaching - or all three - that has happened in class. Sometimes, we teach in a way that is different to the way that we adults were taught in school. When this happens, go with what your child has been taught. If they can't remember, please ask us to show them (and you if necessary) again. Teaching them different methods at home usually results in confusion in class and we choose our methods carefully because they are part of a sequence of learning and because they work.

As always, if your child is, or you are, experiencing difficulty with homework, then please come and talk to us and we will try to help.

SWIMMING LESSONS

The Department for Education understands the importance of learning to swim - it is the only physical activity which can save your life. So, every year we send our Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 children swimming in order to learn this essential life skill and to fulfil a legal requirement of the National Curriculum.

All schools **must** provide swimming lessons in Key Stage 1 or 2. Swimming is the only statutory sport within the Physical Education (PE) programme of study of the National Curriculum. In other words we are legally obliged to teach it and to help with this we are funded for lessons. The funding doesn't cover all of the costs that we incur over the year but does help considerably. We ask parents to help with a contribution towards the shortfall.

Many pupils in Key Stage 2 can already swim but the National Curriculum, and the guidance from Swim England, goes beyond that and the main focus is on water safety and building confidence in the water in a range of situations including rescue.

Schools do not have to teach pupils to swim every year. They get extra money in the per pupil formula allocation for children in Year 4 to have a course of swimming lessons - ten half hour lessons only. We know that this is not enough to teach stroke development, water confidence and safety for most of our pupils. For many of them, they will only just scratch the surface of water safety, even if they have swimming lessons outside of school. Since 2012 Swim England has monitored the provision of curriculum swimming and water safety in primary schools, and pupil attainment and their research has consistently shown that only half of pupils meet the required standards. For this reason, at Langdon we provide more swimming lessons in this essential life skill.

We hope that our pupils will never be in a situation where they have their swimming, confidence in water or water safety skills tested for real but by delivering the programme of swimming lessons that we do, we prioritise teaching that may be a life-saver as well as fostering the fun and enjoyment of being in the water.



MINIBUS DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Are you a competent driver, with a clean drivers license, who would like to support the school by becoming a minibus driver? If you are interested and meet the criteria below, then please let the office know. Our minibus drivers help out when they can, when our staff are unable to drive because of other commitments. Currently, only one parent and one ex-parent helps us so we welcome other offers of help. Interested? Please speak to Dee Howson in the school office.

From KCC Minibus Driver guidance:

a) *Existing car drivers:*

Those who held a full entitlement to drive a car **before** 1 January 1997 will continue to be able to drive a 16-passenger seat minibus in the UK and throughout the EC without restriction, until their licence expires, but **not** for hire or reward i.e. for use as a taxi.



ALDI'S KIT FOR SCHOOLS

This year Aldi have launched their Kit for Schools promotion. If you shop at Aldi, for every £30.00 that you spend you will receive a special Team GB athlete sticker. We will collect these stickers, aiming to collect 300 so that we can be entered into Aldi's draw to win £20,000. Any stickers that you bring into school can be placed in the letter box in the entrance hall. Many thanks for your help and support with this venture.



WET WEATHER

Does your child have a coat in school every day? Even if it rains we go outdoors during breaks. Do they also have a named set of wellies in school ready for wet days on the school field? If not, please could you provide your child with a set as soon as possible. Please ask to see our spares if you would like to take advantage of a pair of these for a donation of £1.00.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
Wb 9.9.19	Year R - in school mornings only	8.45am-12.00pm
11.9.19	Dance lessons start for Giant Panda Class and Sea Turtle Class	
12.9.19	Kent Test	
13.9.19	Holiday diary deadline	
14.9.19	Dover Grammar School Tests	
Wb 16.9.19	Year R - mornings and lunchtime	8.45am-1.15pm
16.6.19	First Achievement Assembly	
Wb 16.9.19	Clubs begin this week	
17.9.19	Piano lessons start	
18.9.19	Swimming lessons start - Tiger Class	
20.9.19	Dover Gym Club lessons start - Tiger Class	
Wb 23.9.19	Year R - mornings and lunchtime	8.45am-1.15pm
23.9.19	Meet the Teacher Open Evening	3.00pm-5.00pm
24.9.19	Full governing Body Meeting	3.30pm
26.9.19	Brass Lessons begin	
Wb 30.9.19	Year R - full time	8.45am-3.00pm
10.10.19	Sea Turtle Class Assembly	2.30pm
14.10.19	Online Safety Day 3 - Privacy and Security - whole school	
17.10.19	Healthy Eating Jamboree - Tiger Class	
18.10.19	End of Term 1	
28.10.19	Beginning of Term 2	

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