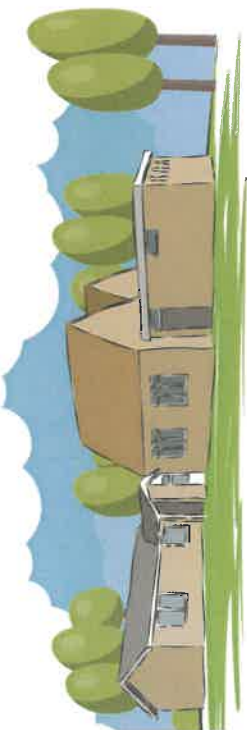


DECEMBER



2020-21

Langdon Primary School



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It was almost inevitable that the school would be affected by the coronavirus outbreak at some point during the term and our closest contact to date came this term when we had a confirmed case in South America Class, our Year 5/6 bubble. To confirm what happened so that you are aware of how we made our decisions, I contacted the Department for Education, Public Health England and the local authority who guided me through the decision making process about how to proceed. After talking through the events of the week before the outbreak, they confirmed that the safest course of action was to close the class bubble and ask everyone to self isolate.

Immediately, we contacted parents to tell them of the situation and to ask them to keep their children at home. Mr Jones began organising home learning tasks for the next two weeks and a full deep clean of the classroom and any areas used by this class was undertaken. Mr Jones and I picked up and responded to messages from parents and carers anxious for more information or reassurance and continued to do so as we moved through the fortnight.

During the period of self isolation, pupils received work from Mr Jones via SeeSaw and then sent back their work for marking and feedback. We were able to help families, who had previously told us of problems they may have accessing online learning, by loaning them laptops from school for their child to work on. It became very obvious, very quickly, that the majority of our pupils were working extremely hard and putting in great effort at home and we are very proud of how they handled the move to home learning.

Following the period of closure for this class we are keen to find out what worked well and what needs improving. All parents of pupils who have been at home for any period of self isolation have been sent a questionnaire to complete to help us in that. Please complete this as soon as possible if you have not done so already.

This single case of Covid-19 was well controlled in our school. We had no further cases resulting from contact in the class or elsewhere and I believe that this is due to the measures we have in place across the school to mitigate against the virus - hand washing, the use of individual resources, social distancing and forward facing desks, 'catch it, bin it, kill it' and lots of cleaning and sanitising. This gives me reassurance that our measures worked this time.

I am quite sure that this will not be an isolated incident and over the course of the winter we will encounter more. I hope that, like us, you are reassured that our processes are robust and that we are constantly aware of what we need to do to keep our children and staff safe. As always, we are here to talk to if you need to know more or if you have concerns for your child.

Please just ask.



CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

This year will be significantly different to other years in terms of our Christmas arrangements. However, we are trying to keep this time in primary school special despite the restrictions. Below is a list of events/occurrences and how we plan to do them this year:

Christmas Tree: You may already have noticed that we have a Christmas tree in the garden at the front of the school. In order that all children get a chance to see the tree in school (which is normally in the entrance hall) we have relocated it outside the office bubble, in the outdoor area. Our children will all add their own bauble to the tree on 1 December so that they feel involved with starting the Christmas celebrations off in school.

Christmas Cards: One of the joys of primary school Christmases is giving and receiving cards amongst friends. This year we will be allowing children to share cards but in a different way. From Monday 30 November 2020 to Friday 11 December 2020 children will be able to bring their cards to school and post them in our new letter box which will be in the playground. The letters will be left in the letter box until Friday 18 December which gives them a whole week of 'quarantine' before we deliver them. Each child will be given a bag full of their cards to take home and share with you there, so avoiding the inevitable sharing and touching in school as children get excited in the opening.

Key Stage One Nativity: This year we are unable to have an audience in person for this performance but we still want to put on a nativity performance since this is a special part of 'memory making' for children and their parents. During December we will have our performance videoed and produced by a local company who will upload this to YouTube for children to share with their families. It will be full of the usual charm, earworm songs, tear jerking moments and possibly wellies (!) as we use our school grounds to recreate Bethlehem. Parents will be able to download it to keep forever (or at least until that embarrassing 21st birthday party moment) free of charge but we will accept any welcome donations received from you which we will send to the Children's Society, our chosen Christmas charity who support children in vulnerable or disadvantaged circumstances.

Christmas dinner and parties: Christmas dinner is booked for Thursday 17 December 2020. Children will eat in their classrooms this year with the usual 'sing for your supper' songs, music and crackers. Following dinner each class will have a slightly quieter event such as a film of their choice, socially distanced games and individual party bags of goodies to eat and/or take home.

Christingle: This year we are unable to use the church for our Christingle Service but we will hold a shortened 'Carols around the Tree' celebration on the last day of this term which will involve all children in all classes and some Christingles. We will attempt to involve those at home by 'Zooming' if we can and a link will be sent nearer the time.

Very often parents and children generously bring staff gifts at the end of term. This year we ask that if you want to give your child's teachers a gift to say thank you, that you drop your gift off at the office by Friday 11 December 2020. We will then pop it under our staff tree to 'quarantine' until the end of term before the teacher opens it and says thank you to the child who has given it. Please ensure that each gift is clearly labelled with the name of the member of staff and the child /family who has given it so we can get it to the right person!



PARENT'S EVENING

Thank you to everyone for their cooperation with online parent's evening this term. We have now signed up to School Cloud for the rest of the academic year and all of our parent's evenings and learning and progress meetings will be through this format. Our next meeting is on **7 December 2020**. At this point we will be able to discuss your child's progress and learning since their return to school and to identify any additional support they may need if they still need to 'catch up' from the period of school closure earlier this year. We have time between now and then to iron out any problems in the system that we encountered last time so do let us know if there were things at your end that made the process tricky. We will send the information about how to use School Cloud again in December so that you know how to log on, adjust the video/audio settings and how to access the meeting. Please read this carefully in advance, because it will help to prevent some of the problems we had in September.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone who contributed this year to BBC Children in Need. Your generosity never fails to amaze us and it was brilliant that we were able to send them a donation of

£173.73.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our PTFA are going to hold our usual Christmas raffle this year. In order to support their work and our school please try to find buyers for the two books of tickets that we will send home with your child. The lucky prize winners will receive hampers stuffed with Christmas goodies just in time for the festive season.

In order to make up the hampers we are going to have a **non-uniform day on Friday 11 December 2020**. Your child can wear their own clothes in return for an edible or drinkable treat that we can stuff into a hamper. Ideas for donations include bottles (soft or alcoholic drinks are welcome), mince pies, boxes of biscuits or crackers, wrapped cheeses, jars of pickles, olives or other snacks, chocolate or sweets etc. The PTFA committee will ensure that all received goods are both quarantined and cleaned prior to putting them in the hamper. The hamper will then be quarantined until 17 December 2020 when we will distribute them to the winners.

SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL

One of the things that we do in order to provide additional funding for various measures to enhance and improve our school is our successful Summer and Christmas fairs. This year, we are unable to host these due to national restrictions. This, alongside other cancelled events, has led to a £2000-£2500 shortfall in our PTFA funding this year. So, we are looking to other ways to support the school to provide 'welcome extras'.

Parents can of course, just donate to the school and this is always a welcome thing. You can make a monetary donation on SQUID via voluntary donations. Perhaps, if this is something that appeals to you, this could be used to donate the money that you would have spent at the Christmas fair this year but have not been able to.

Another way of donating is to look at our Amazon Wishlist. The link to Amazon UK, via our wish list, can be found on our school website by following [Our School](#) > [PTFA](#). There you can find items that we would purchase for the classes if we had usual PTFA money to help. You can purchase these items as a gift to your child's class from the wishlist and they will then be sent directly from Amazon to the school or you can pop them in your Amazon shopping basket and bring them into school yourself.

We thank you enormously for everything that you all do to support our school. We do understand that times are tough and that not everyone will be able to help, but for those of you who can we are very, very grateful to you.

REMOTE EDUCATION FEEDBACK

If your child has been absent from school due to self-isolation or a bubble closure since September 2020 we are keen to hear from you about their, and your, experience of our learning support. For those who have already completed the questionnaire, thank you. Your comments are well received and we now have some pointers to work on in order to make our remote education offer even better and some thoughts about how to use the good elements to support other areas of our work with our children. For those who haven't yet completed the questionnaire the link is below:

Please click on the following link to access this questionnaire if your child has self isolated this term:

<https://forms.gle/GmWa7yxqUYBH5wbq5>

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

For the foreseeable future, on the last Friday of every month, we will celebrate the birthdays that have happened that month within your child's class. Each teacher will organise a fun activity for the children to do and we will provide birthday cake which will be shared between all of the children. The reason we have chosen to do this is because we are aware that your child is not able to have home parties with their friends at the present time but that the passing of time and the marking of another year of life with friends is an important part of growing up that some children are missing out on.

It's important to stress that this will not be a full blown 'party' for your child - parties are home events and even in lockdown parents can be imaginative and creative, finding ways to celebrate their child's birthday that will be memorable. This will be a fun activity in school that hopefully will be remembered as the special activity that everyone took part in to celebrate with your child and to mark their growing up and getting bigger.

As now, children are welcome to bring treats into class on the day of their birthday to share with friends. Ideally, these are bagged sweets or mini chocolate bars or bought cakes in wrappers or boxes in order that we can avoid direct contact with any thing that might be eaten. Your child's teacher will distribute these in order that the children don't handle foods unnecessarily.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
Wb 23.11.20	Assessment Week for Years 1-6	
Wb 30.11.20	Assessment Week 2 for Years 1-6	
7.12.20	Learning and Progress Meetings (online via School Cloud)	9.30am-6.00pm
11.12.20	Non Uniform Day - Christmas Hamper Donations	
17.12.20	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Parties	
18.12.20	Carols around the Tree o/c End of Term 2	1.30pm
4.1.21	Staff Development Day	
5.1.21	Beginning of Term 3	

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