

# DECEMBER



2020-21

## Langdon Primary School



[www.langdonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.langdonprimaryschool.co.uk) Find us on Facebook: [Langdon Primary School/Langdon Primary School PTFA](#)



As we come to the end of the year that will be forever remembered as the one that was blighted by coronavirus and Covid-19, I have been reflecting on how much we have achieved despite the pandemic and the chaos this has caused.

2020 was a trying year at Langdon but we have managed to keep educating and

caring for the children in our school and, for the most part, they have continued to make progress and remain happy and content at school. This is, primarily, because of the wonderful staff that we have who approach everything with a 'can do' attitude and look for solutions instead of dwelling on the problems. Their prime considerations, as many of you have discovered, is the wellbeing and safety of the children and their high aspirations for their learning and progress. This goes for our governors too, who have supported everything that we have done this year. I want to publically thank the staff and the governors for everything they have done this year to keep Langdon going and to move it forward despite the challenges we have faced.

I also want to thank you for your support over the last year. This has been a year when we have had to respond quickly to events and you have had to show some degree of flexibility and trust in us. You have done that in bucket loads! I often hear from head teacher colleagues how difficult their parents have been in response to their actions around sending children home to self isolate or be tested or because a bubble has closed, well not here (well, not yet anyway!). Thank you for going with the flow and contacting us to talk things through when it's not clear or you want to be reassured. This two-way partnership is vital at the current time and we really appreciate it.

If I look back to this time last year, life seemed so much simpler. We didn't have to think about social distancing, forward facing, singing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star whilst washing our hands, how to put on PPE or even whether bringing a pony into the school grounds for Mary to ride on whilst filming the Nativity was a good idea! Now, with lots of help and determination to make things work we have achieved all of this and done it well whilst keeping everyone in school safe.

And, who would have thought that this time last year we would have mastered how to teach children in living rooms, dining rooms and kitchens as well as in the classroom? We are on a journey with remote education and we are looking at it constantly to make it as good as we can make it for each and every child. It's been difficult at times but by-and-large we've done it and we now have a good system operating if we need to close a class or send children home for a short period of time.

Moving forward into the next term, we will face more challenges and disruptions and we will need to face these with renewed resilience and motivation and a determination that this will not beat us; knowing that we will continue to progress and improve. Until then I wish you a very restful break and look forward to seeing you all safe and well in January.

### CONTACT ARRANGEMENTS OVER CHRISTMAS

The Department for Education has requested that schools remain in contact with parents for the first six days of the Christmas holiday period in case their child or a member of staff has a positive test result and we need to help trace close contacts who have been with the child or staff member in school.

The DfE recommend schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information:

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should **not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

I will monitor my emails every morning in order to keep contact with you from Saturday 19 December 2020 until Thursday 24 December 2020 inclusive. I would ask that you do contact me if your child has a positive result - it is imperative that we help to control the virus as best we can and it is not an inconvenience for me to be contacted for this reason. My email address and the **ONLY** one you should use for this purpose is [lpaylorsutton@langdon.kent.sch.uk](mailto:lpaylorsutton@langdon.kent.sch.uk)

### SOUTH AMERICA CLASS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Following the period of recent self isolation, South America Class may return to school on Friday 18 December 2020. In order to plan for activities that are happening on that day, could you please let the class teacher, office or me know if your child **will** be in school. You do not need to let us know if your child will remain at home.

### THE NATIVITY



Last week our youngest children took part in filming the traditional story of the Nativity. Being part of performances is an important part of being in primary school and our Nativity is a special performance for Key Stage One and Early Years children to be part of; it's also important for parents in terms of memories of their child's journey through school. This year, despite the restrictions on gatherings, we wanted children and parents and wider family members to have the opportunity of this experience. For this reason, we have produced a film of the performance which we will share with families via a private emailed link that will come to you on Friday. Please note, this film is for you to share in your own home with your family and friends and **MUST NOT** be copied or shared in any way beyond this. You will recall that you signed to agree to this prior to your child taking part. Copying and wider distribution, including on your own social media pages would be against privacy laws.

I think that you will agree, that the video is rather sweet and there are some endearing funny moments in there too. The children will watch the video in school ahead of distribution this week, so be prepared for a running commentary when you watch it at home! We usually collect for the work of the Children's Society, who support vulnerable and disadvantaged children, at our Nativity performance. If you would like to donate to them this year please send in a sealed envelope, clearly marked *Children's Society*, with your donation before Friday 8 January 2021.

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the Christmas raffle which the PTFA organised for us. We made a total of £507 which is brilliant.

The raffle and draw were conducted by the PTFA but overseen by Mrs Howson and Mrs Keem for transparency. After 72 hours of quarantine the prizes will be distributed this week. Well done to all of the winners!

### CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

Sadly, because of the recent closure of the Year 5/6 bubble and staff self isolation, we will not be able to sing around the tree and film this for you to watch as intended on the last day of term. I know that this is disappointing but something had to give in order that we didn't stretch ourselves too thinly at this time. I hope that you understand.

### TEACHER CONTACTS

In order to give staff a well deserved break from work, the governors and I have insisted that they turn off their email and SeeSaw notifications from Monday 20 December until we return to school on Monday 4 January 2021. Thank you for respecting the teachers and allowing them time to refresh and recharge their batteries ready for the next term.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
17.12.20	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Parties	
18.12.20	End of Term 2	
4.1.21	Staff Development Day	
5.1.21	Beginning of Term 3	

[www.langdonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.langdonprimaryschool.co.uk)



Langdon Primary School



Langdon Primary School PTFA

