



2020-21

Langdon  
Primary  
School



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We continue to hear in the national news of the high numbers of pupils who have been adversely affected by the lockdown and school closure periods - children who are finding it impossible to return to school buildings, those who are unable to make and retain friends, those who are hugely behind with their learning and children who are either anxious, sad or angry.

Our school however, continues to be a happy, purposeful place with children learning and making progress at a very pleasing pace. Every classroom is full of busy children who are engaging well with the curriculum and working hard. Any initial concerns that we had about all children returning to school have, mostly, been addressed and our pupils seem settled once again in their classes and with their friends.

We anticipate that there may be wobbles from time to time, but that's usual in 'normal' times so in the post lockdown period it should almost be expected.

The staff are great at noticing and addressing issues straight away and we thank you for bringing these to our attention when they happen out of school where we can't easily see concerns that children might have. We continue to focus on ensuring that our children are happy, settled and feel secure in school because if we can get this right, our pupils will learn effectively.

Happy learners are effective learners in our experience.

So, our forthcoming learning and progress meetings will really focus on this.

We will of course, talk about your child's learning and how they are progressing, mastering and attaining in the core subjects and wider curriculum but our main focus will be on letting you know how ready your child is for learning and how effectively they are learning as a result of this now that they are back in school full time.

This term, in order to ensure that there are no additional pressures or stresses, creating wobbles or getting in the way of happiness or feeling secure in school, we are not using summative assessments in class to back up our ongoing teacher assessment. This doesn't mean that the teachers don't know where your child is with their learning or that they don't communicate this to the children. Every task is assessed through observation of how it is tackled, through discussion with your child about their understanding, through questioning to dig deeper into this and through marking of work completed independently. I am lucky to have a staff group who really understand how to assess in order to bring about immediate improvements in learning and to inform future planning for teaching. So, in the meeting with you, staff will give you information about what your child is succeeding with and what they need to work on next but not assessment data at this stage.

Parents will be able to meet with the teachers to discuss their child's learning and progress on Monday 24 May 2021. Appointments will be available from 9.00am - 6.00pm and once again, we will be using School Cloud as our platform. We have had some positive feedback about the flexibility of this for busy parents. Hopefully, third time around we will have ironed out any remaining IT glitches! Look out for the letter from the office about booking your appointment.

## TUTORING

We are using the government's 'Covid Catch-Up funding' this year to help support pupils with a bit of additional teaching in order to accelerate their progress in class. Some pupils have after school lessons and some have them before school. If your child is having lessons before school, from Monday they should arrive at **8.00am** and go straight to Breakfast Club on the days when they attend, where the staff will look after them until the teachers are ready to start lessons. These additional lessons are for children that the teachers have identified only rather than for all pupils. At some point or other, most children have a bit of extra individual attention in school, this may happen in lesson time or outside of usual lessons and it may be for a few sessions or over a longer period. Because each child is individual we tailor the support according to individual progress and attainment, giving support or challenge as necessary. Lessons that happen outside of usual school hours are a privilege - this is not usual school practice. If your child is part of these sessions please ensure that they do attend all lessons and that they arrive on time so that they do not miss precious time with their teachers.

## HEAD BUMPS



Every day as children play together we have a number of accidents that are just par for the course on a busy school playground - trips, slips, falls and head bumps. Most of these result in minor injuries and require no further action other than a little TLC and a plaster or wet paper towel or an ice pack as a 'comforter'. Currently, we have a policy of phoning home every time a child has a bump above the neckline, regardless of how minor or major this is. Most of the time there are no issues arising from the bump and children go off and play as usual or carry on with learning with no further effects.

Phoning home can be quite time consuming, particularly if we can't reach you and then have to keep trying or rely on you contacting us back.

In light of this, we have decided that a more effective way of contacting you since we are all used to the system now, **for minor bumps only**, is to leave you a message on SeeSaw. We will, of course, contact you immediately by phone if there are any concerns about the scale of the injury or of the effects of the bump on your child, or if we feel that a medical opinion is needed.

From Monday 10 May 2021, please be aware that minor head bump messages will come to you via SeeSaw. As always, if you have any worries or concerns about any aspect of your child's health following a head bump, please get in touch with Mrs Howson in the office, who has access to our first aid records, and she will try to help.

## ARRIVAL AND COLLECTION TIMES

Just a reminder that children in Europe and Antarctica classes start at 8.45am and finish at 3.00pm.  
Asia and South America class start at 9.00am and finish at 3.15pm.

Please do not arrive too early for drop off and pick up as it compromises our class bubbles and also, in the morning, takes unnecessary advantage of the good nature of our staff or distracts them from the preparation for the day's lessons since they are not contracted to start their full teaching day until the hours specified above.

## THE DAILY MILE

All of our classes this year, are working towards doing the Daily Mile. You may have seen or heard about this initiative in the press, particularly since the arrival of the pandemic because there is strong evidence to support the notion that exercise is a good way to alleviate stress, anxiety, worry, weight gain and lethargy all of which are negative outcomes associated with the periods of lockdown.

The Daily Mile initiative is written into our curriculum plan and our school improvement plan for this year alongside other PE provision. The reasons why we have adopted it are numerous and link to our observations of pupils following periods of class or whole school closure and to advice from the Department for Education and PE organizations, including the Daily Mile initiative itself. It has also helped to fill gap that we have in our PE curriculum that has been created due to the closure or difficulties in accessing dance, gymnastics and swimming activities as well as wider school activities such as sports clubs, active visits and trips.

The research around the Daily Mile and the benefits of it are well documented in educational literature, on the internet and even most recently, on TV. From our perspective, we have decided that we need to address a number of issues arising from our observations of children's physical and mental well-being as a result of the pandemic. We have also been made aware, following analysis of pupil data in this school linked to the School Health height and weight checks that take place annually, that about 1/3 of our pupils are classed as overweight or clinically obese and as such, we have been asked by the Kent School Health to consider how we might address this. Perhaps as, if not more concerning at the current time, is the observational data that we have collected ourselves of children returning to school who are tired, lack stamina in their learning, find it hard to persevere with challenging or active tasks or who lack resilience.

The Daily Mile is designed to be jogged or run. Despite its name, the Daily Mile is in fact 15 minutes of exercise through jogging or running a day (which can result in 'average' children running a mile over that time). We understand here that some children are not yet able to jog for 15 minutes so children are allowed to walk/jog according to their ability and stamina. Some children walk significantly more than they jog at this time but we are noticing that over time, all of our pupils, in all classes, are able to manage more distance, more running or manage a better time and this is progress that has physical and mental benefits. Perhaps more importantly is the buzz that we notice after the run; children are more animated and active and ready to learn in a way that we were not seeing prior to introducing the Daily Mile. There are even benefits for our staff who, at times, walk or run with the children to encourage them to keep going, to try a bit more jogging over walking or to help them achieve a personal best time if they are using timings and are a bit stuck in the same time zone.

There's loads more information about the Daily Mile on the internet but this site is a useful starting point if you would like more information:

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/>

The Daily Mile is not all that we do in terms of PE and activity. We continue to teach PE in all forms - tag rugby, rounders, athletics, dance and so on - and children are outdoors for at least an hour a day in order to play and we see lots of chasing games, football and other sporting activities going on at these times. We aim to return to gymnastics, dance and swimming in full next academic year but until then the Daily Mile helps to supplement the amount of activity children engage in at school and so far the impact on health, well-being and fitness is looking very positive.





## NEW STAFF

Following Miss Langley's exciting news about her pregnancy, we are looking to appoint a replacement teacher who will cover the period of her maternity leave. We have had a good number of people interested in the position and it is our aim to interview and appoint next week. As soon as we have a teacher in post, we will let you know who they are, when they will be joining us and in which class they will be teaching. Please be assured that we will appoint carefully and choose a teacher who will complement our existing staff team.

## SUMMER TIME IS HERE (almost!)

As the weather improves please can you encourage your child to be sun-aware. Your child should always have a cap or sun-hat in school, labelled with their name, for sunny days. This applies to all children from Year R to Year 6 as on very hot and sunny days we will operate a 'no hat, no outdoor play' policy. Staff will make the decision about when to apply this policy based upon the weather at the time.

Your child should bring a bottle filled with water, preferably one with a sports cap, each day. They will also need to have a suitable lightweight coat or their school fleece in order that they do have appropriate warm layers should the weather change during the day.

On days when the weather is warmer, I suggest that parents apply sun-block to their child first thing in the morning before coming to school. If you would like your child to apply a top up amount at lunchtime then please send in a named bottle which your child will be encouraged to use. We will supervise the older children doing this and help the younger children to become more independent in application of their sun-block. We have a supply of sun-block in school that we will apply to your child if they forget their own bottle so please let the class teacher know if you do not want us to do this.

Finally, for PE this term please ensure that your child has the Langdon PE kit in school every day:

- Green Langdon logo PE tee-shirt
- Black PE shorts - not gymnastics shorts please, these are too small for some activities in school
  - Plimsolls or trainers

Please note, the Winter PE kit of jogging bottoms and top should not be worn in the Summer terms so we will be sending this home over the next week.

Please do not be offended if we ask you to change any items of your child's PE kit. We choose our PE kit carefully so that it is appropriate to a range of activities and sports and at times we might consider a piece of clothing to be unfit for purpose, too small or too large.

As always, please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
10.5.21	Year 5/6 Bikeability course - Monday to Thursday	
14.5.21	Tempest Photography - Class photographs	
18.5.21	Full Governing Body Meeting	3.30pm-5.30pm
24.5.21	Learning and Progress Meetings	9.00am-6.00pm
28.5.21	End of Term 5	3.00pm/3.15pm
7.6.21	Beginning of Term 6	
9.6.21	Westside road closure - installation of new Broadband cabling	
15.6.21	New Year R Transition Day 1	1.45pm-3.00pm
1.7.21	Music Concert <i>TBC in light of restrictions</i> Open Evening <i>TBC in light of restrictions</i>	1.30pm-2.30pm 2.30pm-5.00pm
9.7.21	KS2 End of Year Production <i>TBC in light of restrictions</i>	6.30pm
21.7.21	Leaver's Assembly <i>TBC in light of restrictions</i> End of Term 6	9.30am 2.00pm

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