

Langdon Primary School

2020-21



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www.langdonprimaryschool.co.uk

Welcome back to the new school year and the 'new' arrangements to manage any Covid-related risks. It has been a good start to term for the children in Years 1-6. Each day I make a point of popping into classes and sometimes stay to see what the learning activities are for the lesson and how the children are responding. Without exception, I have seen calm, purposeful classrooms with children working hard. I have been pleased to see some excellent mathematical understanding of number in all classes and to see some amazing artwork connected to the birds that the classes are named after and self portraits of the children themselves. It is great looking back at last year's books and artwork to see the level of progress that the children have made, particularly when you consider how disrupted education was last year. It's a really good start for all classes and a good basis to move forward from.

Our new reception children started school this week and for the most part they are beginning to settle nicely. It has been good to see them beginning to make friendships and to play alongside the Year 1 children who are showing some great leadership skills. There have been a few wobbles but we know that as time passes, we will overcome these and the children will become more confident in their new environment. We are currently trying to recruit two new members of staff to work in our Key Stage One department to offer a greater level of support for our youngest learners and I will let you know as soon as we have been successful in this - this is a fantastic opportunity for our small school, enabling us to give our children the best possible start to their educational journey.

Our risk assessment and plans in case of any Covid outbreaks are now on the school website for your information. We will, of course, treat these as 'live' documents and update them in line with any new advice or changes in the local or national picture. As always, if you have any questions about any aspect of how we manage the current risks, then please ask; we are happy to help you understand our logic and thinking.

HOLIDAY JOURNALS

Thank you to everyone who has completed a holiday journal over the summer break. The reason we ask children to do this is to keep their skills in reading and writing up over the summer holiday so that when they return to school in September, they can hit the ground running with no loss of knowledge. Research shows that even writing only one long piece of work over the course of a week means that children can gain approximately three weeks progress when they return to school because they don't have to revise previous learning before they start new learning. Holiday journals are due in this Friday 17 September 2021. Everyone who has completed a journal will receive a small prize for their efforts and one lucky child, who the teachers judge has used the skills they were taught last year to good effect in their journal, will be given a £20 voucher.



MINIBUS DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED

A brilliant resource that we have is our two minibuses that the PTFA helped us to purchase. Having the minibuses means that we can take the children to a range of events that broaden and deepen their learning. On a week by week basis, we use them for swimming and gymnastics lessons and throughout the term we take trips to enhance the curriculum. Already, staff are planning visits for this year linked to their class topic, to the theatre and of course, on our popular residential visits.

We do have some staff who are KCC approved minibus drivers but we welcome parents, grandparents or friends who would be willing to train and then help with trips and visits either on a regular weekly or ad hoc basis. Without KCC approved drivers, we are unable to do many school trips because we need our minibus driver staff in school teaching most of the time. At the moment we only have three drivers which is causing a headache in terms of scheduling the minibus visits.

In order to become a KCC approved minibus driver, you need to attend a day of training (which we try to arrange in school using our own buses). The training involves an online theory test and a practical driving test - both of which you receive preparation in.

There is one major consideration to bear in mind if you are interested. You must have passed your car test before 1 January 1997 and have a category D1 on your driving licence.

If you want to talk about helping with minibus driving at our school or are interested in doing the training, please contact Dee Howson in our school office.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION



At Langdon, we work alongside musical instrument and vocal tuition partners 'All Sorts of Music' who are based in Ash, near Sandwich. All Sorts of Music can provide children with lessons in a range of instruments or in singing either for fun or to examination standard. Currently, we have a few children who are learning the piano or keyboard and but flute, guitar, saxophone and clarinet can all be accommodated. All Sorts of Music's website can be found at:

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

Where we can accommodate lessons in school, we will but parents can also arrange to have lessons in the All Sorts of Music studio in Ash.

For parents who are in receipt of benefits, All Sorts of Music are able to help with the cost of lessons - cost is not a barrier to learning an instrument and they are keen that all parents who are interested in their child having tuition feels confident to contact them to discuss individual circumstances in order to make lessons happen for their child.

SCHOOL UNIFORM and LONG HAIR

As the Autumn progresses and we move into the colder days, please ensure that your child has a coat in school every day. We do play outside in all weathers, even rain doesn't put us off, so it is important that the children have appropriate clothing for outside. Every child should by now have a pair of wellington boots in school so that they can play on the school field in all weathers. Please send in your child's NAMED boots as soon as possible.

Until 4 October 2021 children can wear our summer or winter uniform which is as follows:

- GREY trousers, school skirt or pinafore
- White plain polo shirt (please note that cotton school shirts and 'blouse' type polo shirts with pockets and embellishments are not suitable uniform for Langdon and will not be allowed. Please arrange for your child to have a plain polo shirt as soon as possible if your child is wearing the shirt/blouse type currently).
 - Green Langdon logo sweatshirt and/or fleece
 - Green and white gingham dress and green cardigan
 - Grey, black, green or white socks or tights only

Please note, that our school uniform policy states that children are NOT allowed to wear boots or sandals in school - school shoes only please - and that cardigans are only to be worn in the Summer uniform months.

For PE children should have a pair of plain dark coloured jogging bottoms (black or blue please) and a plain dark coloured sweatshirt or hoodie if they do not have a school sweatshirt. Most of our PE takes place outdoors so this kind of warm clothing is essential as we move into the Autumn.

Current guidance to schools states that, '*... it is important to ensure good ventilation and maximising this wherever possible, for example, opening windows and propping open doors ...*' We are aware that this means classrooms could be a little chillier than usual. For this reason, I have asked the teachers to put on the heating if they need to in order that children are not freezing cold or needing to sit in coats. No one should need their coat on in class, this is not conducive to good learning. However, we are aware that some children may feel colder than usual. For this reason it would be wise to ensure that they layer up their clothing - a vest, polo shirt, sweatshirt and fleece give good protection on a chilly day. If your child needs an additional tee shirt under their polo shirt then this too is acceptable but please ensure that it is not on show or contra to our school uniform expectations.

If you wish to purchase additional school uniform, this must be done via our online payment system SQuid. We also have a limited supply of good quality second hand uniform in stock that you can purchase for a small amount; please ask Mrs Howson in the office for help with this.

As always, please check that you have named your child's clothing so that it is easy to reunite them with the owner should they get separated.

A reminder about our expectation for children's hair when in school. Long hair - for girls and boys - needs to be securely tied back in pony tails, plaits or a bun. Where hair is shoulder length, and particularly if there is a fringe that hangs low, we expect children to use an Alice band, an elastic band (like the footballers wear) or hair clips to keep their hair off their face and out of their eyes when working. Tying hair back is safer in terms of accidents where it could get caught up, means that there is less distraction as it gets in the way of vision and for older pupils, allows the skin to breathe more freely thus reducing pimples and spots. We will help children to clip or tie their hair up if they forget to do so before coming to school but it would be better if this could be done at home so that we can get on with the job of teaching.

RESIDENTIAL VISITS 2021

After a year of no residential trips it is with great excitement that we are able to once again book these trips for pupils in Years 2-6. The three residential visits are the highlight of the year and the children benefit enormously in the areas of:

- Wider learning opportunities and experiences
- Increased opportunities for communication building of relationships
 - Improved social and emotional development
 - Increased self-awareness, self-confidence and independence
- Increased opportunity for challenge within a safe and secure environment

This year, children in Years 5 and 6 will be given the opportunity to visit Norfolk where they will engage in a range of water sports and indoor activities such as indoor pot holing and archery at the Manor Adventure site. Children in Years 3 and 4 will be given the opportunity to visit Kent's Swattenden Centre where they will take part in the zip wire, low and high ropes challenges as well as raft building and night time woodland walking. As a member of staff on these trips, we get to see the joy and confidence building that these activities bring and we hope that every child will join in.

If you have any queries about the visits, such as how we handle individual medical needs during overnight stays, or you or your child is a little wobbly at the thought of going on a residential, come and talk to us and we will try to help.

Payments for the Year 3-6 residential can be made through SQuid now, either in full or in instalments. Please contact us if you have any problems with any aspect of payment. Information about the Year 2 residential will come out later in the year.



BAG2SCHOOL

We have another collection scheduled for 12 October 2021. Bag2School usually raises about £100 which is great - every little helps.

Please make a little time to look through your wardrobe and sort out any good condition clothes, shoes and bags or other clothing accessories that you no longer need or use and pop them into a black sack ready for collection on 12 October. Bring them to the school car park on the day that we will be collecting them. We don't have space to keep bags here before that date, so please don't bring them into school early.



MEET THE TEACHER

On Monday 27 September 2021, school will be open for parents to come into class with their child to visit the classroom, see where their child sits, look at their child's early work from this term and talk to the teachers. We will be open from 3.00pm until 5.00pm and parents can pop in at any time. This is not a formal staff - parent consultation about learning and progress; that will take place in December after our assessments have been done for this term. This is more of an opportunity to find out how your child is settling into class and learning in their new year group and for us and you to share any problems that have arisen that we need to address.



CLASS ASSEMBLIES

If we are allowed to under coronavirus guidance for schools and it is safe to do so, we will resume our showcase assemblies in Term 2. The performance is not a polished production but these assemblies give parents a chance to see and hear about the learning that children have done over the course of the year so far. It's also a chance for children to perform in public, which is one of the experiences we want to give children before they leave our school. The dates and times are on the diary at the bottom of this newsletter so that you can pop them in your diary now.

BEGINNING OF TERM REMINDERS

- Please send in named wellies for your child asap
 - Please send in named PE kit asap
- Please remember that to hunt out and use your child's high visibility vest for Walk on Wednesday
- Pop a reminder on the diary to sign your child's book mark on a Wednesday evening for Buster's Book Challenge (after they have read - children DO tell us when they don't read but the book mark has been signed!)
 - Don't forget a water bottle (filled with water only) every day
- No bulky bags in school please - there isn't space for them and they are generally not needed
- Gold stars to parents who have named their children's clothing, PE kit and wellies so far!



AHHH . . . !

And finally, for those who haven't heard (I can't believe there would be many) Miss Langley gave birth to a healthy baby boy called Dougie during the school summer holidays - just after we broke up to be precise! The children have had a chance to see him and to see that Miss Langley is well and enjoying motherhood. I am sure that you will all join the children, staff and governors in wishing the new family well.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
wb 13.9.21	Week 1 for Year R	9.00am - 12.00pm
14.9.21	Swimming for Year 3 and Hawks Class on Tuesdays this term	1.20pm
16.9.21	Brass lessons begin	
Wb 20.9.21	Week 2 for Year R	8.45am - 1.00pm
wb 27.9.21	Week 3 for Year R	8.45am - 1.00pm
27.9.21	Meet the Teacher open evening	3.00pm - 5.00pm
wb 4.10.21	Week 4 for Year R	8.45am - 3.00pm
12.10.21	Bag to School collection	
13.10.21	Nasal spray flu vaccinations for Years R-6 - details to follow	
19.10.21	Kent Fire Brigade Fire Safety Talk	
21.10.21	Family groups and individual photographs	8.30am families
22.10.21	End of Term 1	3.00pm
25.10.21	Beginning of half term week	
1.11.21	Beginning of Term 2	
3.11.21	Parrot Class Assembly	2.40pm
10.11.21	Owl Class Assembly	2.30pm
17.11.21	Eagle Class Assembly	2.30pm
19.11.21	Children in Need - details to follow	
24.11.21	Hawk Class Assembly	2.30pm
wb 29.11.21	Assessment Week (Year 1 - 6)	
1.12.21	Y3, Hawk and Eagle Classes - Marlowe Theatre Pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'	9.00am
10.12.21	The Nativity - Langdon Village Hall	1.30pm
13.12.21	Learning and Progress Meetings	1.00pm - 6.30pm
16.12.21	End of Term Achievement Assembly Christmas Dinner Christmas Parties	9.00am
17.12.21	Christingle in St Augustine's Church, East Langdon for Years 2-6 o/c end of Term 2	1.30pm
4.1.22	Staff Development Day - no children in school	
5.1.22	Beginning of Term 3	

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