

DECEMBER



2021-22

Langdon Primary School



I think we would all be forgiven for thinking 'Here we go again . . .' this week but I am hopeful that this year, the situation might not be as bad as it was when I wrote the newsletter this time last year and had a whole class and four members of staff self-isolating. However, we must not be complacent and as always, we will be following the guidance from the Department for Education, the government and the Local Authority closely. I am also in daily contact with my local and Kent-wide head teachers and I will be looking to see what they do so that we are not too far away from other schools in terms of our decision making.

Just for information, Covid-19 is prevalent in local schools and I know that head teachers of our nearest neighbours are having to manage high case numbers amongst staff and pupils. I would urge our parents to please do everything they can to help prevent virus transmission at Langdon. It was brought to my attention this week that groups of parents are gathering, without social distancing, at the drop off and collection times at the school gates. It would be great if you could once again follow the 2m guidance for this term. If you feel that use of a face covering would make you feel safer then please use one outdoors as well as indoors.

I know from talking to you that many of you are concerned that you might have an interrupted Christmas once again as a new variant emerges. This is the last thing we want, sending home a viral present is not our aim so we have reviewed our procedures today for keeping the school safe and hygienic, and we have tightened up where we think we should. New DfE guidance suggests that staff are strongly advised to wear their face coverings in communal areas of school and we will be doing this. If for any reason, you have to visit school, as recommended, we will also ask you to also wear a face covering in order to keep our staff and pupils safe. We have a supply of these in school if you forget one of your own.

I can't thank those of you who have said or written that you understand that we are trying to do the right thing for the children, staff and families, enough. It is a continuing minefield to navigate, with information constantly coming to us late in the day, but all of the time we do so we are working to keep our children and our community safe.



PARENT'S EVENING

Our next Learning and Progress meeting is on **13 December 2021**. At this point we will be able to discuss your child's progress and learning since September and to identify any additional support or challenge they may need.

We will once again be using School Cloud to hold the meetings virtually because this has proved most convenient for everyone in the past but please contact the class teacher if there is a problem with this format for you. We will send the information about how to use School Cloud again in the letter inviting you to sign up for an appointment, 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**, most of the problems that we have been telephoned about in the past could so easily have been sorted out without our help if this information had been read prior to the meeting.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Below is a list of events/occurrences linked to Christmas and how we plan to do them this year:

Christmas Cards: One of the joys of primary school Christmases is giving and receiving cards amongst friends. This year we will be encouraging children to share cards in the same way that we did last year. From Monday 6 December 2021 to Wednesday 15 December 2021 children will be able to bring their cards to school and post them in our letter box which will be in the playground. The letters will be left in the letter box until Friday 17 December to 'quarantine' before we deliver them. Each child will be given a bag full of their cards to take home and share with you there.

Key Stage One Nativity: If all things remain as they are at the time of writing, it is our intention to hold the nativity in the village hall on Friday 10 December 2021. Following the successful format of the leaver's assembly held in July, this event will follow the guidance which is in place for use of the village hall determined by the parish council. Accordingly, this event is open to **ONE** person only who is connected with the children in Years R, 1 and 2 in Parrot and Owl Classes; please note that due to lack of space we cannot open this up to any more people and that in addition to the conditions for use determined by the Parish Council, we are following the guidance issued by the UK Health Security Agency to any venue holding an event or attraction, including schools. This event is not open to any other year groups and we reserve the right to ensure that only one person attend from each family. Please let the office know in advance if you will be attending so that we have a copy of your details for potential track and trace should the worst happen. There are some rules that you need to follow if you are attending:

- Please arrange to have a lateral flow test on the morning of the nativity performance. Log the results into <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and be ready to show the confirmation text/email on your phone before entering the village hall. Lateral flow tests can be obtained by following this link <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits>
- **DO NOT** attend if you have or develop any coronavirus symptoms, however mild; if you have tested positive in the last ten days or if you have been instructed to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.
 - Please wear your face covering at all times indoors.
 - When entering the building please use the hand sanitizer provided.
 - You will be shown to your seat and are asked to remain seated at all times during the performance.
- On completion of the performance, we will take the children back to school from where they can be collected (along with any siblings) to go home. Please maintain social distancing at all times from people you do not normally have regular contact with.

We are once again arranging for a video to be made of the performance so that you can share this with other family members who would like to see it and the children themselves in your own home. It will be downloadable for you to keep. If for any reason the guidance means that we cannot do the face to face performance in the village hall, then the video will continue to be made and distributed.

I am sure that you understand that this event has to be as safe as possible for everyone in attendance, hence the arrangements, particularly given the closeness to the Christmas holiday. I thank you for your support in advance but if there are problems with any aspect, please speak to Mrs Paylor Sutton directly who will be able to advise.

As usual, 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 16 December 2021. Children in Parrot and Owl Classes will eat in their classrooms this year with the usual 'sing for your supper' songs, music and crackers. Children in Hawk and Eagle Classes will eat in the school hall. Following dinner each class will have a small party with socially distanced games and activities.

Christingle: This year we hope to be able to use the church for our Christingle Service once again. Rev Kaz Reeves is planning to welcome the children from Key Stage Two into the church on the afternoon of Friday 17 December 2021 at 1.30pm. At the moment, parents are invited to join us but this will be subject to review as we approach the end of term and Kaz will make the final decision about whether this is safe to do or not with reference to current church coronavirus guidance.

Once again, there may be restrictions regarding numbers permitted to attend, use of face coverings and lateral flow testing but I will let you know the arrangements for these closer to the time. At the end of the Christingle service, children will return to school with their teachers and can then be collected (with younger siblings) to start their Christmas holiday.

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 Wednesday 15 December 2021. 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!



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 once again, the PTFA feel that the time is not yet right to host these after consulting event guidance. 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.



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 Monday 13 December 2021**. 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 16 December 2021 when we will distribute them to the winners.

CHILDREN IN NEED

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

£149.00



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
Wb 29.11.21	Assessment Week for Years 1-6	
30.11.21	Last Year 3/4 swimming session	
1.12.21	Key Stage Two visit to the Marlowe Theatre Pantomime	12.00pm -
7.12.21	Full Governing Body Meeting	3.45pm-5.30pm
10.12.21	Key Stage One Performance 'The Nativity' in the Parish Hall, East Langdon	1.30pm
13.12.21	Non-Uniform Day - Christmas Hamper Donations Learning and Progress Meetings (online via School Cloud) - Parrot, Hawk, Eagle	9.30am-6.30pm
14.12.21	Learning and Progress Meetings (online via School Cloud) - Owl	9.30am-6.30pm
16.12.21	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Parties	
18.12.21	Christingle Service at St Augustine's Church, East Langdon o/c End of Term 2	1.30pm
4.1.22	Staff Development Day	
5.1.22	Beginning of Term 3	

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