

NOVEMBER

2020-21

Langdon Primary School



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As we move into the Autumn, just a few reminders about uniform and clothing.

Please ensure that your child has coat with them every day. We go outdoors in all weathers, come rain or shine, so a coat is essential. If your child has gloves, a hat and scarf, please ensure they are named so that we can reunite them with your child if they get lost.

Now that we are getting cooler days, winter PE uniform comes into action too. Your child will need a pair of dark coloured jogging bottoms (black or blue please). Please note that leggings are not suitable for PE nor warm enough on winter days. If your child is wearing leggings for PE currently, please swap them for joggers as soon as possible. A dark, logo-free hoodie or sweatshirt is also useful for cold days to pop on over the PE tee-shirt; a school sweatshirt can also be used for this purpose.

In our school we do not allow children to wear boots indoors. They should continue to wear sensible school shoes at all times. If they need boots to walk to school on icy or snowy days, then these will need to be changed before entering class. For PE lessons we recommend trainers rather than plimsols because they have a greater degree of grip on wet surfaces, reducing the likelihood of accidents.

As always, please ensure that ALL items of clothing that your children wear in school are named with an indelible pen or a sew-on name label.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT TUITION

For those children who have signed up with All Sorts of Music for piano or keyboard lessons, they will begin again in school on Monday 15 November 2021. Please ensure that if your child has music or other resources that they need that they bring them into school each Monday.



REQUEST FROM PARROT CLASS

The children in Parrot Class (and Owl Class too) like to use real materials in heuristic play opportunities. Heuristic play involves the use of everyday objects that can be used in an exploratory or creative way to create structures or imaginative scenarios.

Do you have any old pieces of piping, tubing, drain-pipes etc that the children can use to explore water with in the outdoor area?

Also, we need any off-cuts or pieces of wood that are of no use to you but that we could use for building structures from. As a guideline, if the children could stand on it without it breaking and causing damage, then we would be interested in receiving it.

All donations are welcome and we do, of course check them and amend them for suitability and safety before handing them to the children so please don't worry that they need to be perfect.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Next Friday, 19 November 2021, is Children in Need fundraising day. Our school has always supported this event in order to support children who are in a less fortunate position than ourselves. This year, we have decided that we are going to 'Go Glam!' in exchange for a donation towards the charity!

We are asking everyone to come into school all glammed up in their best clothing. Sequins, glitter and bling is most welcome as is any glamorous or beautifully creative face painting or makeup. We will even allow nail varnish on this day. Ideas for clothing include bow ties, cravats, smart dresses, suits, trousers, shirts or if your child feels like it, the full Hollywood outfit. The more outrageous, creative, glamorous the better. I will of course, remind you that this is school and we do still have playtimes, so if you really value something and don't want it damaged in a game of football or a ride of a scooter board, perhaps best not to send your child in wearing it.

Donations should be at least £1 per child but please feel free to send in anything that you can afford, every little bit extra is welcome.



MARLOWE THEATRE TRIP

We are once again offering children in Years 3 - 6 the opportunity to go to the Marlowe Theatre to see their pantomime which this year is 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Oh, yes we are!!

Attending a theatre performance is one of our activities that we want pupils to experience before the end of primary school and so this event is offered to all children in Years 3 - 6. The pantomime stars West End star and pop star from the band Blue, Duncan James; Strictly Come Dancing's Joanne Clifton and Marlowe favourite Ben Roddy. The PTFA have agreed, once again, to provide an ice cream for every child at no extra cost. Letters giving full details of the cost of the trip and other arrangements will come to you on Monday next week. Children will be taken to Canterbury by minibus on the morning of the performance and will return early afternoon. For this reason, every child needs a packed lunch on this day - please let us know in advance if you require a school packed lunch so that we can order one for your child.



ASSESSMENT WEEK AND LEARNING AND PROGRESS MEETINGS

Now that we have returned to (fingers crossed) 'normal' routines during school hours and with a commitment from the government to keep schools open as far as possible as we move into the winter months, we think that it is time to more formally assess pupil learning in order to determine the rate of progress for individuals and groups; to find out where the gaps in knowledge and understanding lie and to inform how we will plan future teaching, intervention, tuition and support. Children in Years 1-6 will be assessed by their teachers prior to meeting with you in our Learning and Progress meetings during this month.

For children in Key Stage One, they do a series of tasks with their teacher who observes and notes how independent they are in their work and how accurate are the outcomes. The assessment is fairly informal although we use published assessment materials that allow us to establish a baseline of knowledge and from there measure a child's learning.

For children in Key Stage Two we use summative assessment papers, similar to those used at the end of Key Stage Two in the SATS assessments. Children begin to do assessments in Year 3 under test conditions, although the first assessment is more supported because it is new to them. Children do assessments in reading, writing, mathematics and grammar, punctuation and spelling.

The assessments are a good tool for the staff who work with the children. Firstly, they show us what the children have learned, understood and retained. Next, they show us what they either haven't remembered or what we haven't taught fully enough. Using this information teachers plan what to teach the children next in these crucial areas of the curriculum that run through every subject. They are also used to help us decide who needs more challenge and who needs more support. This informs the tuition we offer pupils out of school and the intervention we do in school.

Assessments are nothing for a child to worry about so we ask that parents don't build them up into a big thing. At this stage in school we are not about doing 'exams'. Assessment is in fact, a process that happens every day, in every lesson. This is just a supplementary way of doing it. These summative assessments help us to see what needs to be done next in order to ensure that the children have the deepest understanding of the curriculum and that they are able to apply what they know in their future lessons and learning. If your child asks you about the assessments or seems anxious about them, it's a good idea to remind them that assessments are more important for the teachers than they are for the children; it's our way of checking that we have done a good job with our teaching.

Following our analysis of the assessments we meet with parents to talk about children's learning and progress. This will happen on Monday 13 December 2021. We will tell you what your child's strengths and weaknesses are and what we are doing to address them. We will also tell you if your child has any additional needs that we need to address and how we will do this - although most parents for whom this is relevant already know. We will give you a written record of our assessment of your child which includes any targets we have set for them for the next term.

We intend to offer parents either a virtual or a face to face appointment. If you make a face to face appointment then your child's work from this term will be available for you to look at prior to the meeting with the teacher because we know that this is something that parents have told us they value and have missed over the last few months.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event	Time
19.11.21	Children in Need - Go Glam!	
26.11.21	Staff Development Day - staff only in school	
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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