

LANGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 – September 2023



WELCOME BACK

A big welcome back to all of our Langdon families, to school and a new school year. I extend an especially warm welcome to our new families who are joining us this year, both in Year R and across the school. Welcome especially to Blake, Amos, Maddox, Albie, Iyla, Isabella, Arthur, Guinevere, Reeve, Louis, Fletcher, Aoibhe and Maebh; we are so happy to have you join us at Langdon and hope that you will be really happy here. I hope that our new families, and your children, will quickly feel at home here and that you will make lots of supportive friendships with our current families and children. To help with this, why not come along to our Friday morning Achievement Assemblies where you can meet other parents and see what our children have been up to during the week, both in and outside of school? We serve coffee and tea from 8.30am in the hall and everyone is welcome to join us. Year R will begin attending our assemblies from the week that they are in school full time which is the week beginning 2nd October 2023.

I have to say a big 'thank you' to you all for getting 'on board' with the uniform changes we have made this year. The children are being encouraged to look smart to show that they take a pride in their school and its image, their uniform and themselves. This all came about after I received a few comments from parents (and from people outside of school) about a bit of a slide in our standard of presentation which was feedback that I didn't feel comfortable with. Following a couple of performances and events where we did focus on our presentation and the more positive comments received in light of this, I decided that we needed to have a bit of a smarten-up. The old saying that 'first impressions count' is absolutely true and when showing new parents around school, I am very aware of this. I can honestly say that I have been really proud of the children this week in how they are presenting themselves; even if it has taken a million reminders of 'tuck your shirt in' to get there! I am grateful to parents for supporting this focus this year; ensuring that Langdon is known for its high standards in all things is a good thing for our school.



BREAKFAST CLUB AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

You may have noticed that there are a couple of advertisements out and about for a Breakfast Club assistant and an After School Club play leader. I am really sad to announce that after eight years at the school, Mandy Deegan is seeking to move on to pastures new. Mrs Deegan was a parent for a number of years at the school and has been our Breakfast Club leader for eight years. She is also contracted to Whole School Meals as their dinner lady in our school. The children are used to seeing her on a day to day basis and I know that she will be much missed. We wish her well as she moves from part time to full time employment now that her children are all grown up and beginning to fly the nest.

Mrs Trenchard, who has been running our After School Stay and Play and Care club for the last year, has decided that she wants to spend more time with her new grand-daughter so won't be continuing with the club for the foreseeable future, and who can blame her, her grand-daughter is absolutely gorgeous! I know that many of you will be very grateful to Mrs Trenchard for her work with our children after school hours, giving you peace of mind about high quality care for your children whilst you are working. I am also grateful to Mrs Trenchard for helping to get our after school care re-started again after a short break.

If you are interested in either of the two roles that are advertised, details can be found at www.kent-teach.com. Just search for Langdon Primary School and they will appear. Please pass them on to anyone who might be interested in these roles. If you wish to have a chat about either of the jobs, my door is always open.

In the meantime, the teachers have kindly offered to help with keeping our after school clubs going for the immediate future, until we get someone in post. You can book your child's place until 4.15pm for Stay and Play at a cost of £2.00 per session or full care until 5.30pm at a cost £8.50 – please book IN ADVANCE on SQuid. Breakfast Club will continue as normal with Mrs Dodd leading the sessions.

MEET THE TEACHER

On Monday 25 September 2023, 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 teacher. We will be open from 3.15pm 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 the 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 to share any problems that have arisen that we need to address. It also gives parents an opportunity to talk to the teacher about 'myths' about staff and practices that come up year after year that seem to wobble children.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Just a reminder that Summer uniform can be worn until 1 October 2023.

From that date, Winter uniform applies as we move properly into Autumn and colder weather.

Gingham dresses, cardigans and shorts can be worn this month, but from October need to be packed away for another year.

Currently, the summer seems to be lingering and whilst that is the case, please ensure that your child has a hat in school (named, of course) for hot, sunnier days. We operate an 'no hat, no outside play' policy and it would be a shame for your child to have to play indoors when their friends are outside.

If your child does not have school shoes yet, please arrange to purchase these as a matter of priority.

NEW LOOK CLASS NEWSLETTERS

You should, by now, have received your first class newsletter of the year. You may notice a difference in the presentation of it this term. On the front of the newsletter are the day to day reminders, such as important dates for your child's class, reminder notices and information about what we will be teaching in English and Mathematics this term.

When we teach other subjects we try as far as possible (without becoming tenuous) to teach them in a way whereby we link knowledge from different subjects together. This way we build strong learning links that will enable knowledge to 'stick' in children's memories for future learning and use. For example, in **geography** we may learn about the weather patterns of a different country and compare these to the weather patterns in the UK. In learning this, we may produce **mathematical** graphs and charts. When interpreting this information we may record our ideas in writing which builds our **English** knowledge and skills. When we teach subjects in this way, we look at integrating them into one topic – climate, in this case – so at Langdon we call this our Integrated Learning lesson. Much of our English curriculum is woven into Integrated Learning lessons, providing a real opportunity for children to use the knowledge and skills they have been taught in reading and writing lessons.

On the back of the newsletter, you have a Knowledge Organiser. This document details key and essential information that we want your child to learn over the course of the Integrated Learning topic they are being taught. Teachers have outlined key facts about the topic; vocabulary that they will be using and definitions of this so that children really understand what we are talking about; interesting or unusual information that may be taught such as a quote that is associated with the topic or bit of more detailed information about an aspect of the topic that may be interesting to know. The Knowledge Organiser will also include diagrams, images, pictures and photographs for example, a country's flag, a flow diagram of a lifecycle or an artist's impression of a period in time. We encourage you and your child to really explore the Knowledge Organiser and to use it to support activities at home that enhance and enable learning. The children will be learning far more than the outline you receive, this is just the core information we want them to know and remember; but if you can help your child learn the key facts and vocabulary at home, then when they come to lessons in school they will understand more readily what the teacher is teaching them. Use the Knowledge Organiser to help your child explore their topic more widely either through books, the world wide web or other experiences such as visits to places that are relevant to the topic.

We will be assessing children's knowledge and understanding of their learning of course, as we progress through our planned teaching activities and the information on the Knowledge Organiser is our starting point for that assessment.

As always, if you have any questions about your child's learning at school or how you can help at home, then please contact the teachers who will be happy to advise.

YEAR 3 - SCHOOL DINNER CHANGES

If your child has moved into Year 3 this September, you need to be aware that school dinners will no longer be provided free of charge under the Universal Infant Free School Meals for Key Stage One children. Meals must be ordered and paid for on SQuid in advance of them being taken each day. School dinners cost £2.44 per meal.

If your child is eligible for benefits related free school meals then their entitlement to free meals will continue as usual. If you think that you might be eligible for this support, then please apply. Pupil Premium funding that we use to help pay for our support adults in the classroom is based on our numbers of free school meals eligible children. If you want to know more, follow this link:
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

BEGINNING OF TERM REMINDERS

- Please send in named wellies for your child asap
 - Please send in named PE kit asap
- Please remember to hunt out and use your child's high visibility vest for Walk on Wednesday
- Pop a reminder in 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!

ADVANCE WARNING OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Advance warning of some key dates for your diaries for those who need to book time off work . . .

19 October 2023, from 8.30am – Family photographs with Tempest Photography

19 October 2023, 2.30pm – Tokyo Class Assembly

2 November 2023, 2.40pm – London Class Assembly

9 November 2023, 2.40pm – Canterbury Class Assembly

23 November 2023, 2.30pm – Paris Class Assembly

4 December 2023 – Learning and Progress Meetings (face to face 9am–1pm, online 2pm–6.30pm)

13 December 2023, 1.30pm – Key Stage One Nativity Performance

15 December 2023, 1.30pm – Key Stage Two Christingle Service at St Augustine's Church, East Langdon.



Diary for Terms 1 and 2



wb 11 September 2023	Year R begin school – mornings	9.00am – 12.00pm
13 September 2023	Swimming Lessons – Paris Class	Tuesdays for Terms 1 and 2
13 September 2023	Full Governing Body Meeting	3.45pm–5.30pm
15 September 2023	Gymnastics Lessons – Tokyo Class	Fridays for Terms 1 and 2
wb 18 September 2023	Year R – mornings and lunchtime	8.45am – 1.00pm
25 September 2023	Meet the Teacher evening	3.15pm – 5.00pm
10 October 2023	Full Governing Body Meeting	3.45pm – 5.30pm
16 October 2023	Online Safety Day – Self Image and Identity	



Diary for Terms 1 and 2



18 October 2023	Kent Test Decisions Posted Home	
18 October 2023	Music Play Day – Dover Town Hall	Parents from 11.45am
19 October 2023	Individual School Photographs	Family groups from 8.45am
19 October 2023	Tokyo Class Assembly	2.30pm
20 October 2023	End of term	3.15pm
30 October 2023	Beginning of Term 2	
1 November 2023	NHS Flu Vaccinations for YR-6 Details to follow	
2 November 2023	London Class Assembly	2.40pm
3 November 2023	Orchestra Concert at Shirley Hall – Tokyo Class	12.30pm – 3.00pm
9 November 2023	Canterbury Class Assembly	2.40pm
wb 20 November 2023	Assessment Week for Years 1-6	
23 November 2023	Paris Class Assembly	2.30pm
4 December 2023	Learning and Progress Meetings	9.00am – 6.30pm
5 December 2023	Online Safety Day – Internet Safety	
6 December 2023	Key Stage 2 trip to Marlowe Theatre Pantomime – Aladdin	1.00pm – 5.00pm
13 December 2023	Key Stage One Performance – The Nativity	1.30pm
14 December 2023	Christmas Dinner and Parties	12.00pm – 3.15pm
15 December 2023	Key Stage Two Christingle Service o/c End of Term 2	1.30pm