

LANGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 – November 2023



Those of you who were in assembly last week, or those of you who are really good at picking up on what's been going on with builders and visitors on site, will have learned that we are in the early stages of replacing some of our school buildings. Kent County Council and the Department for Education have agreed, following their building surveys, that the mobile classroom and the hall block are now at the end of life and need replacing – the staff have thought this for some time as they have battled with leaky roofs and walls and sloping floors and all manner of problems in between!

We have been appointed a project manager and a building company who will oversee and conduct the work which will take place over the next year. During the whole period of the new build, the school will remain open to children and we will be managing the build around our usual daily teaching routines.

The new building will be sited where the mobile classroom and hall currently are and will consist of modular buildings with a brick base. The buildings, although modular, have a long life expectancy and will be double glazed, include air conditioning and be of a larger footprint than we currently have, giving us a more comfortable working environment and more hall and classroom space. Plans include measures to make the school more environmentally friendly, they include an air source heat pump installation and solar panels. In addition to the improvements to the teaching buildings, we will lose the air raid shelter and re-site the cabin building.

The new buildings will not comprise additional classrooms and there is no intention to increase the size of the school by increasing pupil numbers, rather to improve on what we currently have and to ensure sustainability of our small, rural school.

At the current time, the school is working with a number of agencies to enable site surveys that will inform the planning application. Once planning is approved the build will commence properly and I will keep you informed at each stage of the process.



Although not identical, this is a photo of a nearby school that has recently had a modular building installed. Our building will be similar.

SEESAW

One of the real successes that we have introduced to the school is the Seesaw app. This app allows us to send you messages, photos and videos relating to your child and their learning in school and vice versa from home. It is fabulous to see a child's reaction to your comments and messages when they come through to school or their reaction when we look in class at the home learning they have engaged with.

Unlike most schools, we keep Seesaw going through the whole of the primary phase. Many schools use a communication app in Year R to bridge what happens between nursery settings and schools. I always get great feedback from parents about Seesaw across the years and know that you value it.

Seesaw gives you access to a messaging facility 24 hours a day and this is useful. As a working mum, I know that sometimes I was unable to send a message to my children's school until after I had put them to bed and finished with the household chores for the day. Seesaw allows you to do exactly this. However, there is a downside to this access and that is that the staff can pick up your messages 24 hours a day, and often feel obliged to respond to them outside of school hours.

It is so easy in this day and age of instant and accessible technology for communication to get drawn into checking and responding to work messages outside of work hours but this isn't a good thing. Staff's time with their families and friends is important in order to ensure that they have a good balance between work and life outside of school. It is important to protect this to ensure good well being. For this reason, we have decided that Seesaw will only operate between the hours of 7am and 5pm. This means that although you will continue to be able to message 24 hours a day to fit in with your lifestyle, staff will not be responding unless it is between 7am and 5pm. When you send a message outside of these hours you will get an 'out of hours' message. Please be assured that the message has got through but also be aware that it won't be responded to until 7am at the earliest. I know that you will understand that this is important for our staff.

One other thing to remind you about Seesaw. Although there is facility in Seesaw to message groups of parents, please remember that Seesaw is a school communication app and not a social communication app. If the message you wish to post isn't related directly to school matters and your child's learning, then please use other social media platforms for it. From time to time people post requests, thoughts, ideas and opinions which don't relate to school and we reserve the right to delete messages where this is the case.

WINTER CLOTHING

As we approach December, 'tis the season for lost gloves, hats and scarfs! Please ensure that your child's clothing including these items, is labelled with their name so that we can reunite owner and clothing when we find it.

A reminder that boots are NOT part of our school uniform policy. Please ensure that your child is wearing sensible, black school shoes.

Finally, could you check that for PE your child has a dark pair of jogging bottoms in their PE bag - not leggings please, these are not suitable for PE lessons, being thinner and offering less facility to trap and warm air between the fabric and the body which helps to keep the children warm on colder days. For indoor lessons eg. gymnastics, they still need shorts, so please ensure they are also in the PE kit.

SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

Just a reminder that school is closed on Monday 27 November for staff training. Our staff are undergoing first aid certification in order that we are able to deal with the minor injuries that children get in the school environment as well as more major instances such as bone breaks, heart attacks or anaphylactic shock - which we hope we never encounter for real. Children return to school on Tuesday 28th November.

DOVER COLLABORATION OF SCHOOLS READING CHALLENGE

After a long break, some of our collaboration schools were able to get together this term to hold a reading challenge to find out our strongest, most expressive readers. The competition started off in classes where children who wanted to take part read a piece of fiction and a piece of poetry to their teachers. From this round, two winners and two runners up were chosen and these children went forward to the final of our intra-school competition.

It's no easy thing to read in front of all of the children in the school and before three teachers who were judging, but all of the winners and runners up did that on Monday afternoon. Mrs Capell, Mr Jones and Mrs Keem judged the quality of reading, looking at things like fluency, intonation, pace and accuracy. The children read their chosen pieces and also a part of a non-fiction extract which they hadn't seen before. All of them did amazingly well and I am proud of their courage and resilience.

Three winners emerged from this round - Eden Barnes for Year 5/6; Eliza Cooper for Year 3/4 and Veronika Yekymova for Year 1/2. The runners up with Emily Pemble, Bobby Kent and Aoibhe Hugill respectively.

The winners went into the grand final which was held on Thursday in school. Competing against children from Green Park School and Ash Cartwright and Kelsey School, the children had three new pieces of text to read from - two seen previously and one unseen.

I am delighted to say that despite nerves and wobbles, our children performed extremely well and I am immensely proud of their effort. They were clear, accurate and lively in their readings and I know that the judges - governors and representatives from the three schools - were very impressed.

Well done to Eden, Eliza and Veronika who won the grand final for their year groups. They did a remarkable job and we are immensely proud of them.



CHILDREN IN NEED



Thank you to everyone who donated cakes or cookies on Friday for our Cake Sale in aid of Children in Need.

The children were thoroughly spoiled with sugar all day long but all in a good cause.

In total we raised £170 towards this worthy charity and as always, reminded of just how fortunate our children are at Langdon.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Before we know it, Christmas will be with us. In order to enable you to get events at school in your diaries, here is a list of what is happening and when:

1 December 2023

Langdon Christmas Post Box Opens

Post your Christmas cards for friends and staff in our box in the entrance hall

Delivery by our Year 3/4 posties will be on Friday each week

Non Uniform Day – dress in your own clothes, bring a prize for our Christmas raffle

6 December 2023

Key Stage Two trip to the Marlowe Theatre – Aladdin

12 December 2023

Key Stage Two Silent Disco 5.00pm – 6.30pm

13 December 2023 2.00pm

Key Stage One Performance – The Nativity
East Langdon village hall

14 December 2023

End of Term Achievement Assembly 9.00am

Christmas Dinner

Class Christmas Parties

15 December 2023

Key Stage Two Christingle Service 1.30pm

End of Term 2



UNIFORM DONATIONS

Our supply of second hand uniform is proving popular with families who wish to purchase items at a vastly reduced cost. Good quality clothing can be purchased at £1 per item passing on a considerable saving to families. Please ask if you want any items for your child.

We always accept donations of logo-ed sweatshirts, fleeces or PE tee-shirts if they are of good quality with life still in them. Please hunt out any old items and bring these to the school office. We particularly need items for pupils in Years 1 and 5 and 6. Sweatshirts of size 26 and size 30 are very welcome.

We currently have a supply of trousers, shorts, pinafores, tee-shirts, cardigans and dresses and do not need any more of these items. Please recycle these items through other routes or pop them into a bag and store them ready for our next Bag2School collection. If you would like any of these items for your child, pop into the office and see whether we have them in the size you require.

LEARNING AND PROGRESS MEETINGS

Please sign up for your appointment with the class teachers to discuss your child's learning and progress this term on School Cloud. You can find information on how to do this, in video and written formats, by following the link below:

<https://support.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>

NON UNIFORM DAY

Friday 1 December 2023 will be a non-uniform day. Children can dress in their own clothes in exchange for a gift for our raffle hampers. We would like the following from each class please:

Canterbury Class – boxes or bags of sweets

London Class – sweet treats such as Christmas cakes, pies or cookies

Paris Class – savoury treats such as crackers, cheese, nuts, pickles or chutney and crisps

Tokyo Class – bottles of drink

Please ensure all items are in date.



Diary for Term 2



27 November 2023	Staff Development Day - school closed to children	
29 November 2023	Tokyo Class - Performance and Workshop day	
1 December 2023	Non School Uniform Day - raffle prizes	
4 December 2023	Learning and Progress Meetings	9.00am - 6.30pm
5 December 2023	Online Safety Day - Internet Safety	
5 December 2023	Full Governing Body Meeting	3.45pm - 5.30pm
6 December 2023	Key Stage 2 trip to Marlowe Theatre Pantomime - Aladdin	1.00pm - 5.00pm
7 December 2023	Year 5/6 Tchoukball Competition	10.00am
12 December 2023	Key Stage Two Silent Disco	5.00pm - 6.30pm
13 December 2023	Key Stage One Performance - The Nativity	1.30pm
14 December 2023	End of Term Achievement Assembly	9.00am
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
2 January 2024	Staff Development Day - school closed to children	
3 January 2024	Staff Development Day - school closed to children	