
LANGTREE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Fore Street

LANGTREE

Torrington

Devon EX38 8NF

T : (01805) 601354

E : admin@langtree.devon.sch.ukW : www.langtree.devon.sch.uk



09 September 2016

Dear Families

Welcome back to the new school year and to all the excitement and challenges ahead. It has been lovely to welcome everyone back after the Summer Holiday, but especially new Nursery children and families new to our school. We hope that everyone is enjoying their first few days with us, as much as we are enjoying you being here. You might have already noticed some spectacular changes to our site, all of which have taken place during the Summer Holiday, and include new play equipment thanks to our 'Awards for All' National Lottery Funding and top-up funding from our PTA; redecoration in Classes F and One; new Noticeboards in Class One thanks to Mr Preece; a lovely new gate in Class F's garden thanks to Mr Mitchell and various other minor DIY jobs undertaken by Mr Watson.

As this is the first Newsletter of the school year, I hope you don't mind if we print a few reminders for you:

A Few Useful Reminders:

- (1) **Use of the Parish Hall Car Park** We continue to be grateful to the Parish Hall Committee for agreeing that we can have shared use of their Car Park. Can we take this opportunity to let new families know that we have a **voluntary 'No Parking Zone' around the entrance to the school** in order to make sure that all drivers have a clear view of pedestrians at all times. The only exceptions to this are the school bus and taxi, for whom a space is allocated on either side of our gate. **Can we please ask everyone to avoid stopping or parking their car around the gate and leave this area free?** Disabled parking is available, immediately in front of the Parish Hall, for anyone with restricted mobility.

The hatched map, at the end of this Newsletter, shows parking areas we ask to be kept clear at the beginning and end of the school day, to help keep everyone safe. This includes an area alongside the Parish Hall which, if kept free, allows a free-flow of traffic in and out of the car park. Please make sure that any relatives collecting children on your behalf are also aware of this and finally, please remember to drive slowly in the car park at a speed no greater than 10mph. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness.



- (2) **Start of the School Day:** Staff are happy to supervise children in the playground at the front of the school from 8.55am onwards. Please can I ask that you do not drop children off any earlier than that? If, at any time, you need to be on your way quickly, please make use of our 'Early Bird' Before School Club - currently places are available from 8am every morning. We ask that bookings are made in advance just to be sure we have enough staff to cover. Forms, including Registration Forms for first-time Early Birds, are available from the school office. The cost per session is £2.50 per child (or first child) and £2.00 for siblings. Use of the Club has been dropping-off for some time now and we are keen to make sure that it meets parents' needs. We are considering running the Club from 8.30am on a daily basis with a charge of £1 per child, and would be interested to know if this would be more useful than the current arrangement. Please can you let us know, so that we can make a decision by the end of September. We will of course let families know if there is

- (3) Please can we ask, to help keep our site secure and children safe that parents coming and going from the school site make sure that the gate is securely **CLOSED** behind you? Thank you.

To ease congestion and to help keep our younger children safe, we have slightly changed our morning routine in Class F. Parents are welcome to wait in the Nursery Garden from 8.55am onwards (when Early Birds finishes) but can we ask all parents to then leave via the exit door nearest to Class One (as some of you do already) creating a one-way system through the block and enabling us to allow children access to the garden play area straight away without us having to worry about the gate.

(3) Nursery Lunch Club An opportunity for your Nursery child to stay with us over lunch, enjoying a school meal from our kitchen (£5.20 including lunch) or a packed lunch from home (£3.00), and playtime too. Please book and pay at the school office and collect your child at 1.15pm from the school Reception area.

(4) Morning Play Drinks and Snacks A quick reminder that Reception aged children, previously part of Class F but moving into Class One in September as Year One children, will no longer be entitled to free milk; we will have to ask families to pay 20p per beaker of drink (apple/orange/milk) - please book and pay at the Office first thing on a Monday morning. Class One children who have moved to Class Two in September will be able to 'pay as you go' for morning playtime drinks from the kitchen serving hatch (in the school hall) with the same selection, and prices, as above. Parents of children moving into Class 2 will also need to be aware that the morning free fruit scheme is no longer available once they move out of Key Stage One so if your child is peckish by morning playtime, (which most of them are), please provide a snack for them.

(5) New Menus: Autumn Term Our school meal menus are not due to change until after the Half Term break this term so if you have one at home from last term, it's the correct one to use. Alternatively, view a copy via our webpage available at www.langtree.devon.sch.uk (Choose 'School Office'/School Meal Menu). All Reception, Year One and Year Two children remain entitled to a free school meal if they would like it thanks to the introduction of the Universal Free School Meal Scheme.

(6) IMS Music Lessons/Violin or Piano Lessons with Tina Simon and Tina will both be returning to school next week to restart music lessons: Simon for flute, clarinet or saxophone on Tuesday and Tina for piano or violin on Friday. They both have spaces available for any children who would like to begin lessons. Please call at the School Office for more details.

(7) Toys in School From time to time, children will wish to bring their own toys into school. Please can we remind you that this is entirely at your own risk and you might therefore wish to limit your child to only bringing just one or two pocket-sized toys, avoiding their most favourite or precious ones.

(8) Please remember that absence from school for any reason can now only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Routine dental and medical appointments do not count as 'exceptional' circumstances so please try to restrict these only to emergency situations.

(9) Fire Drill Practices We like to hold termly Fire Drills at different times of the school day to make sure that everyone has a chance to be reminded of the correct procedure should the alarm sound, and this includes visitors to our site. Can we please ask you to read the following guidance, which will help make sure you know exactly what to do: **all classes will make their way** with their responsible adult to the Fire Assembly Point (the main path at the front of the school), ready to leave the site and make their way to the Parish Hall if necessary; **all visitors and families already on site** should make their way to the Fire Assembly Point; if you have not entered the school site when you hear the Alarm, please remain in the Car Park until either the Fire Drill is over, or in the event of a real fire, your children are brought to the Parish Hall - our place of refuge. As always, if you feel unsure about what you should do or have any other questions, please come and ask us.

(10) Thursday Afternoon Key Stage Two Multi-Skills Games Sessions New for this term, we have introduced a games afternoon led by Mrs Heard in place of one of the PE slots for Key Stage Two children. Knowing Mrs Heard, these sessions will go ahead in all but the most extreme weather and therefore all children in Classes Two and Three will need a complete PE Kit, including warmer layers as required when the weather gets cooler, and trainers.

Application for Secondary School Places We have been asked to inform parents of Year Six pupils that the online facility to apply for a secondary school place in September 2017 opened on 1 September 2016, and will remain available until Monday 31 October 2016. Once the facility closes you will not be able to apply online and your application may be considered 'late'. Late applications will be considered after timely ones where schools are full. If you miss the deadline, please contact the Admissions Team on 0345 155 1019 as soon as possible. For more advice, including guidance through the process or to actually make an application, please visit www.devon.gov.uk/learningschools/admissions/how-apply-school-place/admissiononline.htm.



MacMillan Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea Friday 30 September 2016 This year, we are again hoping to support the very worthwhile MacMillan fund-raising campaign by holding a Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea on the above date. Please look out for more details about this event in our next Newsletter, (due to come out to families on Friday 23 September) but meanwhile pop 30 September into your Diary!

Class Two and Class Three Football Club We are grateful to Adrian Folland for continuing to offer to train our very keen footballers. He is suggesting that this continues after school every Thursday (3.30pm-4.30pm) this term, but with NO SESSION next Thursday 15 September.

PLEASE NOTE: we are busy making plans for lunchtime football training for Class One and Reception children and will let you know as soon as we have some in place. Meanwhile, if your child is interested, you might like to start gathering together a kit, including boots if you have them, plus an extra layer to put on if the weather turns chilly.

School Diary Dates

Tuesday 18 October: Harvest Show: 9.30am Langtree Parish Hall : everyone welcome.

Autumn Term Half Term: Monday 24 - Friday 28 October 2016.

Film Club

Mondays: 26 September; 17 October; 28 November.

Stay and Play

Fridays: 07 October; 04 November; and 02 December.

Yours sincerely

Helen Mellody, Head Teacher

Hatched area: No Parking

