
LANGTREE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Fore Street
LANGTREE
Torrington
Devon EX38 8NF

T: (01805) 601354

E: admin@langtree.devon.sch.uk

W: www.langtree.devon.sch.uk



ICO Registered: Z6046852

21 September 2018

Dear Families

Welcome back to the new school year and to all the excitement and challenges ahead. It was lovely to welcome everyone back after the Summer Holiday, and especially new Nursery children and families new to our school. We all hope that everyone has enjoyed the first couple weeks of the new school year, and settled back into the school routine.

Joint Headship I am looking forward to continue sharing office space with Miss Mellody this term as the Joint Headship arrangement continues on until Christmas when, as you might already know (following our letter out to parents last Friday), she plans to retire from her teaching career at Langtree Community School. Until then, she will be here in school as Joint Head on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Keeping Children Safe: Security Fencing and Site Entry I hope by now you have become used to using our new entry system. Thank you for being patient with us during the first few days of term as we became used to it too, making sure gates were locked or unlocked at just the right times of the school day.



MacMillan Coffee, Tea and Cake Afternoon Monday 24 September 2018:

2.30pm - 4pm Langtree Parish Hall (Leader Room) This year, we are again hoping to support the very worthwhile MacMillan fund-raising campaign by holding an Afternoon Coffee, Tea and Cake extravaganza on the above date. You

are warmly invited to help support MacMillan as all money raised will be donated towards the support and research they offer on an individual basis. Donations of cakes and raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated - please leave them here with us at school on Monday morning. Thank you very much for helping us make this event a huge success!

Photo Competition Closing Date 01 October A quick reminder that the photo exhibition being organised by Andy Roe in Langtree for October, part of which is a competition for any children from school, is due to close on 01 October. There are two categories to enter: any single photo of your choice or a group of four photos with some sort of theme: for example friends, food, my garden, holiday or 'selfies'. Pictures need to be printed: 10cm x 15cm for the group of four and 15cm x 20cm for the individual photo. If you have any questions, or cannot print your own pictures and need help with this, please contact Andy: andy51roe@gmail.com.



Universal Free School Meals I am pleased to confirm that these are due to continue into the new school year in September with children in Year Reception, One or Two eligible to receive a daily school lunch at no cost to families. **Please note that if your child is currently a Year Two child, moving into Year Three with us from September, we shall no longer be able to claim this subsidy from the Government on their behalf, and will need to ask you to pay £2.20 per meal - unless, of course, you are in receipt of Free School Meals under the DCC qualifying benefits route.** More details available at: www.devon.gov.uk/free_school_meals.htm.



Message from the PTA: Kaye French



Welcome back to the new term! We hope everyone had a great Summer Holiday. Thank you to everyone who supported, donated to, or attended the Summer Fair. The total amount raised was **£555.40**.

Thank you to everyone who continues to use 'EasyFundraising' when shopping online. Just by logging into the site before shopping you are currently helping us to raise in the region of £60 a quarter and since registering for Easyfundraising we have raised a fantastic total of £691.35. For those who aren't familiar with Easyfundraising it's easy to use, costs you nothing and raises money for the school when you shop online. If you would like to sign-up and help us raise money for the school and your children please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and choose 'Langtree Community School' as your cause. 'Easyfundraising' is now also available as a free app for your mobile.

The PTA would like to thank Hayley Bond and her helpers from 'Little Bears' for organising and running their Baby Sale at the end of last term. They have very generously donated £79.10 (half of their profits) to us. Thank you also to all those who supported the sale.

Our future events include our Halloween Parties on Friday 2 November. We will also be running the School Christmas Card Scheme this year. More details to follow soon.



The PTA AGM will be held on Friday 12 October at the school at 7.30pm – further details to follow in the next Newsletter. All new members are welcome and it would be great if you would like to join and get involved.

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, with a designated disabled pupil parking space immediately to the right of the gate. Please remember that not all disabilities are visible.

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 £2.00 per child. A 'Drop and Go' session from 8.30am on a daily basis with a charge of £1 per child continues to be offered as this proved to be very popular last term. For these sessions, please do not arrive before 8.30am. Please remember that, if you

had entitlement to 30-hours funded childcare last term but your child is now Reception aged (and therefore loses that entitlement) we will now have to ask you to pay for these clubs.

(3) 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.

(4) 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 continuation of the Universal Free School Meal Scheme. **Please note there will be a menu change for Thursday 04 October when Amanda won't be cooking a Brunch Plait but will instead be offering sausage rolls as the main menu choice.**

(5) IMS Music Lessons/Violin or Piano Lessons with Tina Simon and Tina have both returned to school to restart music lessons: Simon for recorder, flute, clarinet or saxophone on Tuesday and Tina for piano or violin on Friday. Simon has spaces available for any children who would like to begin lessons, including recorder lessons. Recorder lessons have lots of spaces, in fact not quite enough at the moment to be able to continue the sessions. If you think this is something your child would enjoy, please call at the School Office for more details to bump-up the numbers. All of these lessons conveniently take place during the school day here on site, so there is no commitment expected from parents to transport children around North Devon, making it super-easy to sign-up!

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) Thursday Afternoon Key Stage Two Multi-Skills Games Sessions PE and sport on a Thursday afternoon for Class Two and Three children is now an established part of our school week. Led by Mrs Heard, Mrs Mitchell and Miss Weeks, it counts as one of the PE slots for Key Stage Two children. These sessions will go ahead in all but the most extreme weather (as was forecast yesterday) 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 2019 opened on 1 September 2018, and will remain available until Wednesday 31 October 2018. Once the facility closes you will not be able to apply online and your application may be considered 'late' as Applications close on 31 October each year. If you apply after this date, the application will be considered late unless you can demonstrate that you were unable to apply on time, for example, because of illness or a house move. For illness to be taken into account, it must have prevented an application being made. If the reason you give is accepted and you are able to apply by the date when applications are processed by us, your application will be considered to have been made on time. 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/admissionsonline.htm.

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, starting next Thursday 27 September.

Key Stage One Friday Lunchtime Football Training Training for Class One and Reception children has already started, under the watchful coaching-eye of Miss Bellew, during a Friday lunchtime. During the Autumn Term, a kit to change into, including boots if you have them, plus an extra layer to put on if the weather turns chilly, is all essential - as is a carrier bag to take it all home in at the end of the day!

School Diary Dates

Mon 24 Sept MacMillan Coffee, Tea and Cake Afternoon: Langtree Parish Hall: 2.30pm- 4pm
Fri 12 Oct PTA AGM: 7.30pm in school. More details to follow.
Mon 15 Oct Harvest Celebration: from 9.30am: Langtree Parish Hall. All families warmly invited.
Autumn Term Half Term: Monday 22 - Friday 26 October 2018.
Tues 13 Nov Tempest Photography visiting: individual and family photos from 8am.

Film Club

Mondays after school: 24 September (bookings close Friday 21 September); 29 October (first Monday after Half-Term); and 26 November 2018.

Foundation Stage 'Stay and Play' Sessions:

Fridays: 05 October, Friday 02 November and Friday 07 December 2018

Our Foundation Stage provides a happy and nurturing environment in which Nursery-aged children are sensitively and expertly prepared for mainstream school and school life. If you have a child of pre-Nursery age who is soon due to start with us, we would love you to come along to see for yourself what makes our class so special, and warmly invite you and your child to our 'Stay and Play' sessions on the first Friday of every month. The children will have a chance to play in the classroom, as well as play in the garden, and to mix with our current nursery children; an ideal opportunity for you and your child to experience our Foundation Class together, meet some of our staff and become familiar with the Foundation environment. It's a good time to ask questions and talk to other families. You can come and view the well-equipped and comfortable facilities and observe, and take part in, play, interaction and development in a stimulating environment. We look forward to welcoming you!

Yours sincerely

Nigel Smale
Joint Head Teacher

Hatched area: No Parking

