
LANGTREE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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LANGTREE

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LOTTERY FUNDED

23 November 2018

Dear Families

Operation Christmas Child 2018 I would like to send a heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who has donated towards this year's appeal and helped fill our shoeboxes to the brim with a tremendous range of donations, including donations towards the cost of posting the boxes. These have now all been delivered to The Grosvenor Church, Barnstaple ready for their onward journey to another country, just in time for Christmas. We hope to hear where our boxes have been delivered, and will of course let you know their final destination as soon as we find out. Thank you meanwhile for amazing support, and also to Mrs Mitchell for co-ordinating the appeal here in school.



Christmas Productions and Preparations: Main School Christmas Play: Monday 10 December 2018: 'Bethlehem: The Musical'. All classes in the school are busy making plans for their Christmas productions. New families may be interested to know that Classes One, Two and Three join together to perform a play with a broadly Christian theme, with two performances: one in the afternoon (2pm) and one in the evening (5.45pm) so that as many families as possible can come to watch. We hope to have tickets for both performances ready to go on sale for you from the School Office from Monday 03 December and, as we are able to seat almost 200 festive spectators at each one, do not anticipate that we will have any problem with availability. Ticket prices will remain the same, at £2.00 per seat, with the afternoon performance more suitable for younger children and babies who can, if you wish, perch on adult laps for a better view (please let us know if this is something you're planning to do, so that our audience numbers are accurate). Please also let us know if you need any special access arrangements to the Hall or for seating, as we will do our best, as always, to help.

Our Foundation Class will be staging their very own Christmas production on Monday 17 December again in Langtree Parish Hall, when families of those children will be warmly invited to watch them perform. This event tends to attract a slightly (slightly!) smaller audience and for this reason is not ticketed.

Look out for more details about both of these events coming out to you in our next Newsletter (07 December).



Christmas Dinner: Thursday 13 December I am pleased to be able to let you have details in advance of our scrumptious Christmas Dinner being planned by Amanda, our Kitchen Manager. For the usual cost of a school meal (£2.20), your child can enjoy roast turkey with a sausage and bacon roll plus all the usual festive trimmings (including Cranberry Sauce and stuffing), followed by Christmas Pudding with custard (no nuts or alcohol included) or ice-cream with a festive shortbread, or fresh fruit salad. The vegetarian alternative for that day will be a Quorn roast, plus of course roast or mashed potatoes and all the festive vegetables. On this day, there will be no jacket potato option. **We will assume that everyone will choose the roast turkey option with ice-cream for pudding, UNLESS** we hear from you that your child would prefer the vegetarian choice or Christmas Pudding for dessert. Please use the reply slip at the end of this Newsletter if these choices are something your child would prefer but make sure it's completed and returned to the school office no later than **MONDAY 03 DECEMBER** for the order to be included.

If, for whatever reason, your child will bring a packed lunch into school that day, please also let us know using the slip at the end of this letter, to help make sure we peel, chop and slice just the right amount of food! **IMPORTANT: Nursery Families:** please note there will be **no Lunch Club** running on this day (that is, Thursday 13 December). Thank you again for your help at a busy time of year.

ALLERGIES and FOOD INTOLERANCES We hope that if your child has a food allergy or intolerance you will already have let us have information about this so that we can work hard to make sure he or she does not have contact with any substance which might trigger a reaction during the school day. We securely collate and maintain records of this sort of medical information so that we can, if necessary, refer to it for guidance - for example, when Amanda is cooking in the kitchen or when classes are out and about on school visits. It helps us keep your children safe and well during their time at school, something that is at the top of our list of daily priorities. I am sure parents will appreciate that the importance of keeping this up-to-date and accurate, so if you have a suspicion, or have received a medical diagnosis, that your child is allergic to a particular food or ingredient, please make sure we know. Our catering contractor, Devon Norse, has asked us to ask parents to complete a Special Diet Registration Form to give them (our kitchen staff) the knowledge and authority to prepare a different diet for any child who needs one. If you have already let us know details about an allergy or intolerance, please look out for a form coming home to you during the next couple of days or, if you have only recently discovered an allergy or intolerance, please be in touch with us to let us know, and to request a copy. Thank you in advance for helping to keep your children safe and well during their time with us at school.

Reception Admissions September 2019 If your child was born between 01 September 2014 and 31 August 2015, the time to apply for a primary school place in Devon schools will be before **14 January 2018**, as the online admissions process is now available at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline. If you cannot access the school admissions website, please call 0345 155 1019 for advice, or email primaryschooladmissions@devon.gov.uk.

Welcome to Petroc Students, Emily and Amy! We are pleased to be able to welcome and support two Petroc students to Langtree Community School: you might already have met Emily, who is here with us for two days a week until June 2019 as part of her Business Administration Course; and Amy, who is here as part of her Childcare and Development Course until the end of this term. Amy needs experience of working more closely with children in classrooms, so you might not have chance to see her on the days she is here with us, but Emily is providing help and support both in the School Office and classrooms, so, if you are in touch on either a Tuesday or Wednesday, it might be that she answers the phone or is helping to take dinner money payments or Film Club bookings when you visit. We are pleased to be able to offer opportunities and experience of working in school to both students, while benefitting from the newly gained knowledge and expertise they both bring.

Update from Langtree School's PTA *The Christmas season is fast approaching and we are now making plans for the Christmas Fayre. This will take place on Friday 14 December from 3.30pm in the Parish Hall. We hope you can all join us. There will be a number of stalls and a wide variety of games and activities. We will hopefully have some Christmas singers as well as Father Christmas available for visits in his very sparkly Grotto. We would be grateful for any donations and offers to help. We are looking for:*



- **Raffle prizes**

- *Any bottles of wine (for an adult game)*
- *Sweets for prizes*
- *Any good quality second hand soft toys*
- *Any gifts suitable for a lucky dip (wrapped if at all possible, costing 50p)*

You are welcome to leave any of these donations with Mrs Cook in the School Office from Monday 03 December. We are also looking for donations for refreshments, such as sausage rolls, biscuits, cakes; large or smaller cupcakes on the morning of the Christmas Fayre. Again, these can be safely left at the School Office as Mrs Cook promises to not eat any of them!

Anything you can donate would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to have a stall at the fayre please contact the Chair of the PTA, Kaye French by e-mail: kaye.french@icloud.com. Thank you for your help and support at a very busy time of year. We look forward to seeing lots of families at the Fayre .



Holidays in Term Time Since September 2013, the advice we have had from the Local Authority has been that holidays in term time should only be authorised in the most exceptional circumstances, with a family holiday not normally considered to be an exceptional circumstance.

We all agree that family holidays are really important and can understand the disappointment that must be felt when a request is not authorised, but we must remind you that the children already have 14 weeks of holiday each year and we are sure that most people would agree that it is possible to find some time in that to enjoy some of this important time together and to experience different cultures or activities.

We have recently contacted all the schools in the area, including GTS, and we are able to confirm that they are united in the policy of NOT authorising holidays. To ensure that we are in line with them, we will no longer be authorising these requests under any circumstances and the time away, if taken, will have to be recorded as 'unauthorised'. This may mean that we are asked, by our Educational Welfare Officer, to work with the DCC Legal Proceedings Officer to impose a Penalty Notice on each parent/carer for each child. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days. If you don't pay the fine after 28 days, you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school. Finally, if a previous Penalty Notice has been issued within the past 2 years, then the Local Authority will refer the matter to Court.

As always, please come and speak to me if you have any questions about holidays in term time or feel you need further clarification about any of the above advice.

School Photos: Individual and Family Photographs Thank you to everyone who visited us last Tuesday morning to have family photos taken by Emily from Tempest Photography. She was amazingly busy until 11am that morning, and took over 120 family photos during the first hour of the day. Order forms, and proof mini-prints, should by now have reached you via pupil post. Online ordering, introduced in 2016, is now a popular choice for ordering your prints: visit www.tempest-schools.co.uk and use the web access code printed on your proof form to place your order. Paper order forms needed to have been completed and returned to school no later than **THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER** for them to be included with the school's collection and despatch to the Tempest Laboratory. Please don't forget that late orders will incur additional postage costs but can be placed online at the Tempest website just in case you've missed our return deadline. We expect prints to be

return to school in plenty of time for last posting dates, and will send packs home via pupil post as soon as they are delivered into school.

'ArtMash' Christmas Glass Ornament Workshops We were pleased to be able to welcome Lisa from ArtMash on Tuesday when she visited to work with Reception and Class 3 children to help them design and make individual glass Christmas tree ornaments. She thoroughly enjoyed her visit, and is looking forward to returning to us on Friday 23 November to work with Class 1 and Class 2 children too. Thank you to all families who were able to make a contribution towards the cost of these Workshops, enabling children to take part unique artisan workshops and producing a festive keep sake to take home at the end of Term.

Sports Round-Up Reports, latest news, updates and scores		
		
Local Learning Community High5 Netball Match/ Football Match Beaford Primary School	Clare Heard/Jill Mitchell Netball team Adrian Folland Football team	The first match of the term in this newly established League was played afterschool on Thursday 08 November at Beaford Primary School : football team won 11-0, and netball team won 11-1.
Holsworthy Netball League Langtree –v- Highampton	Clare Heard/Jill Mitchell	First match of this League took place after school on Monday 12 November, with a win for the Langtree team scoring 7 goals against Highampton's 2. ' Player of the Match' was Lillie-Mae. Well played everyone!
North Devon Surf School (Afterschool Surf Club)	Mrs Symons working with Surf Instructors	Thanks go to the NDSSchool for their help encouraging our learner surfers, who have now packed away their boards for the Winter season. 'Well done' to both Summer and Herbie for being recognised as 'Most Improved Surfer' by their Instructors.

School Diary Dates

Fri 07 December	Stay and Play session: from 10.30am in our Foundation Class.
Mon 10 Dec	Main School Christmas production: 'Bethlehem: The Musical': more details above.
Thurs 13 Dec	Christmas Dinner followed by Carol Service at The Methodist Chapel, Langtree during the afternoon.
Fri 14 Dec	PTA Christmas Fayre: Langtree Parish Hall from 3.30pm.
Mon 17 Dec	Foundation Class Christmas Production.
Thurs 20 Dec	Autumn Term: last day of term.

All Christmas Events: final details coming to you in our next Newsletter, due 07 December 2018.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Smale, Joint Headteacher

Langtree Community School
Christmas Dinner Thursday 13 December 2018

My child..... (please insert name) would prefer (please tick a Christmas Tree to let us know your choices):

-  Vegetarian Christmas Dinner Option (Quorn Roast);
-  To bring a packed lunch from home;
-  Would prefer Christmas Pudding as part of his/her Christmas Dinner.

Signed: **Parent/Carer**

To help with our menu planning, please tick your child's preferred options and return to school no later than Monday 03 December. We are grateful for your help. Thank you.