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**LANGTREE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

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**ICO Registered: Z6046852**

Dear Parents

18 January 2018

Welcome to the very first Newsletter of the Spring Term, 2019 and some slightly colder, but more seasonal, weather than we have all become used to having. I would like to wish all our families, old and new, a very Happy New Year and welcome everyone back to school at the beginning of a new school term. I hope that everyone enjoyed the festive break, and had chance to spend some time with family and friends celebrating. On behalf of all the staff here, I would like to thank everyone who very generously gave us presents or cards, especially for the Staff Room which still looks particularly well-stocked with scrumptious goodies, providing a welcome top-up at break times. Families were extremely generous, and staff appreciate every single present so thank you again to everyone.

**Chicken Pox and Shingles** A reminder that there has been a case of Chicken Pox reported in school and although this is usually a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point, it can cause a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters that crust over to form scabs and usually begins with a fever, feeling generally unwell and glassy fluid filled spots spreading all over the body. Shingles is characterised by pain and spots on part of one side of the face or body only. Shingles is not infectious unless you touch the spots; fluid from the spots and crusts from the spots are infectious. If you think your child may have Chicken Pox, please seek further medical advice and, to prevent spreading the infection, can we please ask that children stay away from nursery or school until all spots have crusted over and your child feels well enough to cope with a day at school. For more information, please click on : [www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/); speak to your pharmacist, surgery or health visitor.

**Parents Evenings: Thursday 07 February 2019.....and other afternoons!** Just before the Half Term break, we will be offering all parents and carers with children in Classes One, Two and Three, and of **RECEPTION-aged children in Class F** ('blue jumper' children), an opportunity come in and talk to class teachers about your child's, or children's, progress and your aspirations for the remainder of the school year. To try to accommodate as many parents as possible, ten minute appointments will be offered on the following days:

**Weds 06 February:** Class 1 parents: appointments available from 2.30pm to 3.50pm

**Thursday 07 February:** For parents of Reception children, Classes: 1, 2 and 3: appointments from 3.40pm

**Fri 08 February:** For parents of Class Two children: appointments available from 2.30pm to 3.50pm

Sign-up sheets will be on display outside each classroom from Wednesday of next week for you to book a convenient time. Alternatively, if you are unable to be here on the day we've suggested, or do not anticipate being in school, please contact the school office to make a telephone booking or for help making alternative arrangements to visit. Parents of **Nursery children in Class F** will have chance to look through Log Books with an opportunity for a discussion about next steps with Miss Bellew or Mrs Heard. If any Class F parents would prefer a more private discussion, please speak to any of the Class F teaching team, who will be happy to arrange this.

**End of the School Day (1)** We all love having your children here in school during the day, but really appreciate seeing parents at 3.30pm ready to collect them to go home. After a busy day in class, most children are ready for some relaxation and a snack, or after school club, and can become worried and anxious when parents are later than planned. We appreciate that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances which mean a 3.30pm pick-up can't happen and we are happy to help out any family who is having difficulty. However, prompt collection at the end of the day can help avoid distressed and worried children, so your co-operation to be here on time is greatly appreciated.

**End of the School Day (2)** All staff have been grateful to parents for keeping in touch, during the first couple of weeks of term, about changes to going home arrangements. From a safeguarding point of view, it is vitally important that we have heard **FROM PARENTS**, in advance, if your child is going to be collected by anyone other than yourself. Please feel free to telephone the school office in the first instance, only using e-mail or 'Class Dojo' as a back-up route for messages as we cannot guarantee that we will pick these up at short notice. Thank you for your co-operation and help to keep your children safe.

**M&M Productions: 'Robin Hood' : Friday 25 January 2019** Those families who have been with us for a while will already know about our annual pantomime treat for all pupils, when M&M Productions visit to entertain us to West End standards by performing a traditional pantomime, which this year will be 'Robin Hood'. I am very happy to offer that the school pays for the visit, as our way of saying 'thank you' to children for their hard work throughout the year, but if any families would like to make a contribution towards this cost, it would always be welcomed. Please leave these with Mrs Cook in the School Office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**PTA Happy New Year from all of the PTA!** A very happy new year to everyone from the PTA! First, a date for your diaries: our next meeting will be held on Thursday 24 January at 8pm in 'The Green Dragon'. 'Thank you' to everyone who attends regularly, your support is appreciated, but some new additional members are needed. The work of the PTA is really important to the school in providing funding for some of those 'extras' in terms of both resources and activities. New members are extremely welcome and new people getting involved would be extremely valued. If you are interested in offering your help, please e-mail me on [kaye.french@icloud.com](mailto:kaye.french@icloud.com), or just turn up at the meeting.



**Severe Weather Guidance (Just in case!)** Can I please remind families that, should the school be unable to open due to severe weather, we will let you know as early in the school day as possible by: (1) text message and e-mail via 'ParentMail' or 'Class Dojo'; (2) displaying information on our school webpage at [www.langtree.devon.sch.uk](http://www.langtree.devon.sch.uk); and if possible, (3) by notifying local radio stations eg Heart Radio (96.2 and 97.3FM) and Devon County Council (see [www.new.devon.gov.uk/emergencies/severe-weather/winter-weather/](http://www.new.devon.gov.uk/emergencies/severe-weather/winter-weather/) - follow the link to 'School Closures'). In this instance, it is unlikely that we will be available to take 'phone calls, so trying this route to contact us might not be the best.

If the decision is made to close the school during the school day, we will contact families to ask them to come and collect children as quickly, but safely, as possible. If at any time you feel local weather conditions are deteriorating, please feel free to make arrangements to collect your child in advance of us being in touch, allowing enough time to travel safely. We will again make use of ParentMail, Class DoJo and our website to post details of the closure, but our first concern will always be ensuring everyone is safely on their way home. Regardless of our arrangements, we will always respect any decision that you make regarding travel in severe weather and any resulting absence would be recorded on our Registers as 'authorised' under these circumstances. I hope you find this information useful.

**Friday Afternoon Key Stage Two Multi-Skills Games Sessions** PE and sport for Class Two and Three children has been an established part of our school week for several years now. Led by Mrs Heard, Mrs Mitchell and Miss Weeks, it counts as one of the PE slots for Key Stage Two children and now takes place on a FRIDAY afternoon to fit with teaching commitments. 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.

### School Diary Dates

#### **Spring Term FILM CLUB:** from 3.30pm

Mon 28 Jan 2019 Film to be confirmed. Please book by Friday 25 January at the very latest to reserve a place: £1 per child.

Mon 25 Feb 2019 Film to be confirmed. Please book by **Friday 15 February** at the very latest to reserve a place: £1 per child.

#### **Spring Term STAY AND PLAY: Class F's Open Session: 10.30am-12noon**

Friday 01 February; Friday 01 March 2019.

Fri 25 Jan **PANTOMIME:** M&M Productions: 'Robin Hood'.

Thurs 07 Feb **Parents' Evenings:** details above.

Mon 18-Fri 22 Feb **HALF TERM:** school closed

Tues 02 April **SPRING SHOW:** Langtree Parish Hall: 9.30am

Fri 05 April **Spring Term: last day of term.**

Yours sincerely

Nigel Smale, Acting Head Teacher