



"All Learning Together"

Langton Primary School
Langton
Malton
North Yorkshire
YO17 9QP

Tel/Fax: 01653 658236
Email: admin@langton.n-yorks.sch.uk

www.langtonprimaryschool.org

February 2016

Dear parents,

This is our first letter to you in 2016, following our Governing Body meeting on 3rd Feb. We hope you and your children are as excited as we are at all the wonderful things which are happening and are planned for this term.

Mrs Ray has been very busy promoting our school, both to pre-school and other age groups. A number of parents & children have visited school, both attending the open afternoon and on other occasions. They have been very impressed with what they have seen, and many have chosen Langton for their children. Our 'Good' Ofsted banner is now outside Norton College where we feel it will be seen by more people and our glossy booklet has been distributed. Mrs Ray has also forged links with several nurseries in the area.

Most prospective parents are very interested in our plans to introduce an after-school club. We will be short-listing people for interview before half term with a view to interviewing immediately after the break. There is a lot to do to get this set up. As well as employing staff and training them if required, we are converting the handyroom into the after-school club room as this has facilities for preparing snacks. We need to sort out storage, Charlie, our handyman is going to brighten it up with a coat of paint and we will be buying and collecting suitable play equipment, soft furnishings, etc.

Other maintenance work continues to be needed around school. As you will no doubt have seen, we currently have no carpet in the entrance hall & office: this was saturated when water entered the school during the very heavy rain over the Christmas holiday. Class 2 was also affected. We are hoping that planned roof work will be brought forward by the Local Authority to the Easter holiday. The canopy over the outside play area of Class 1 urgently needs replacing. We agreed at our last finance meeting that we could fund this and so quotes are currently being sought. This will be done alongside other work to improve the outside of the school.

All the governors made visits to school during the autumn term to look at the specific areas to which we are each linked. This improves our overall knowledge of the school as at least one governor knows specific areas in more depth and reports back to us all. Areas covered include Literacy, Maths, Safeguarding, Early Years and Health & Safety.



Head teacher: Mrs Rachel Ray

Chair of Governors: Mr Stuart Simpson

Mrs Laverack has been re-elected by the staff as the staff governor for a further four year term. At our February meeting she updated us on the Senior Leadership course she is doing – due for completion at the end of this school year. As well as specific modules she has done a project, initiated with Mr McGann in September 2014, to improve reading in school. She had previously outlined her approach to us and the results of her work have been seen in the progress & attainment in reading.

As with this project, we are now really moving forward our ‘whole school approach’ in all areas. Work has been done on handwriting and this term all the children have taken part in a handwriting competition judged by Mrs Howard-Vyse. She was very impressed by the standard of writing in school with children in all classes receiving prizes.

Continuing on this theme, the governors approved eight new or revised policies at our meeting including ‘Homework’ and ‘Marking and Feedback’. Your views on homework from the Parent Forum have been taken on board and the staff have worked together to ensure that the policies adopted will work well with children of all ages and abilities. They will also help the children to understand areas to improve and their next steps to move on. As soon as possible, we will be getting all these policies, along with approved minutes of our full GB meeting & committee meetings on the website.

KS1, KS2 & Phonics test results continue to be very important, but increasingly emphasis is being put on the actual work done by the children every day. In order to ensure that there is consistency in the judgement of work, monitoring is carried out in school whereby the teachers compare work of pupils to ensure they are marking fairly and consistently. They also meet with colleagues in other local schools to compare the children’s books and how they have been marked. Mrs Ray & Mrs Laverack in particular have spent a lot of time considering how the children will be assessed now that the government have changed from ‘levels’ to age-related expectations. The children are assessed each half term and Mrs Ray needs to be able to demonstrate to the governors both the progress and attainment of groups of children. This is currently done by a RAG (red, amber, green) summary which enables us to see changes clearly without having to go into detail. It also enables us to ask questions about how specific groups are being challenged and, if there are areas where improvement is needed, how this is being addressed. Mrs Ray has agreed to look at producing similar information in the future based on the new criteria. The latest figures will be scrutinised at our School Performance Committee meeting on 9th March. We will also hold a finance meeting in March before our next GB meeting at the end of the month. We will update you on both of these in our letter following that GB meeting.

Meanwhile, enjoy the rest of this term & if you have any questions or suggestions, please speak to any of us or any member of staff. Governor details can be found on the school website.

The Langton Governing Body