



"All Learning Together"

Langton Primary School
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Dear parents,

We are coming to the end of a brilliant first term of the 2015–2016 school year. Everyone has worked so hard to build on the things which we began last year to make our school even better. We are sure that you will have read our "good" Ofsted report and seen how impressed the inspector was with our school: all credit to your children and all the staff. The new staff have taken up their new roles in school with enthusiasm and, at our recent governors' meeting, Mrs Ray said she was "delighted with the team" and that we now have a "good basis to move forward". She particularly thanked Mrs Laverack for ensuring continuity which gives the children the stability they need in school.

This is only the start of our next quest to be an outstanding school. At our meeting we looked at the School Development Plan (SDP) for the year which focuses our minds on the key things we need to do. In this plan are areas in which Ofsted said we still need to improve and also things we need to do to ensure that we continue to build on the things we are doing well. Mrs Ray has a bundle of exciting new initiatives ready to deliver and staff will also be visiting a local 'outstanding' school in the new year to get more ideas of things we can do. This plan is used to set objectives for staff at their performance reviews and informs lesson plans and monitoring arrangements.

At the School Performance Committee meeting this term we looked at the children's progress and achievement data for the first half term. This shows us the levels at which children are working, broken down by age and other groupings. We can then compare that with how those children were doing the previous half term to ensure continuing improvement. We saw that good progress is being made and additional resources are being committed to any areas which need a boost. Since the government has changed the way that the children are measured and has not yet provided definitions of the new measurements we are continuing to compare using the 'old' measures until we can translate them accurately. Every school is struggling to understand how we can compare children across the country with no agreed measurement!

Every governor will have made visits to school in relation to their specific areas of responsibility before the end of the term. A focus is agreed for each termly visit and the outcome shared with the other governors. This enables us all to have a good understanding of our statutory responsibilities.



Head teacher: Mrs Rachel Ray

Chair of Governors: Mr Stuart Simpson

The fortnightly newsletters keep us all well-informed of things that have been and will be happening in school. I hope you are also regularly visiting our new improved website to keep up to date with events and also to visit the class pages for information and photos of recent activities.

Our new school promotional brochure is being used to market our school in a number of outlets. We are keen to increase our numbers and an open afternoon is being held on 7th January when prospective parents of pre-school children are invited to bring their child and a friend. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our school please mention this event if they are pre-school and encourage parents of any primary age children to ring school to arrange a visit. The school has also had articles printed in the local press on a number of occasions this term. Any other ideas you have for increasing our numbers will be very welcome.

We told you that we would hold a meeting this term to update you on progress towards our conversion to an academy as part of the Evolution Schools Learning Trust (ESLT). Mrs Ray & Stuart Simpson have worked with Norton College to provide the documentation which needs to be presented to the Regional Schools Commissioner and her Headteacher board for approval. We had hoped that our case would be discussed at a meeting at the end of November or the beginning of December, but unfortunately this has been delayed until the new year. We will arrange a meeting with you when our application has been put to this team to inform you what happens next. Meanwhile, Norton College continue to provide specialist teaching support which is very much appreciated by us all and we know the children enjoy these lessons.

Langton also works with other local schools in a number of alliances. We are members of the Howardian Hills Alliance and the Esk Valley Alliance. This allows staff and governors to share knowledge and expertise at regular meetings and training sessions. In addition, individual members of staff work with colleagues in other schools. This is helping to ensure we monitor and evaluate children's progress in 'life without levels' as mentioned above.

Maintenance work is ongoing. The hall is now looking really smart after its recent decoration and our handyman is kept occupied with day-to-day improvements. We have a log of outstanding jobs which we are waiting for North Yorkshire to progress. We will reassess this list at our Finance & Premises committee meeting to be held on 15th December.

The Christmas Fayre was a great success – our thanks go to everyone involved whether you organised, donated things and/or came along to enjoy the evening.

The governors and staff would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2016.

The Langton Governing Body

