



"All Learning Together"

Langton Primary School
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March 2016

Dear parents,

Another amazing term as you will know from the newsletters which seem to get longer each time! Like the staff and children, we governors have had a busy term too. We have held a full Governing Board meeting, with another to come on the penultimate day of term, plus committee meetings for Finance & Premises and School Performance. We have also been in school for link visits and attended training courses.

One of the main things we do in the spring term is review the school spending for the last financial year and set the budget for 2016-2017. Looking forward, the financial picture is unsustainable unless we get more children attending Langton. The 'Good' Ofsted at the start of the year encourages new parents to take an interest in our school. Mrs Ray has visited a number of nurseries, with more visits planned taking along copies of our new glossy booklet promoting the school. If you would like some to distribute, there are more copies in school. Class 1 hosted an open afternoon for prospective parents which led to many favouring Langton for September. To date we have 10 children due to start (our maximum is currently 15) with older children being welcomed to Langton too. This is a big improvement on last September.

One of the key things that potential parents request is 'wrap-around' care. As you know, we already have a breakfast club and, having recruited three leaders, working two per shift, we will be able to look after children until 5.45 from the summer half term. Last week, Charlie, our handyman was busy painting the handy room which will be the venue for the new club and Mrs Ray is going to Ikea for furniture in the Easter holiday. Exciting times!

The governors debated long and hard how we should charge for this care. Currently, some clubs are free and others cost £1. We know that other school's after-school care costs up to £5 per hour. We assumed that some children would want to go to homework club, football club, etc as now, so we have decided that the fairest way to do this was for ALL care to cost £1 for the first hour (all clubs to run to 4.15pm after half term) and then children can have up to one and a half hours more for a cost of £5, during which time they will get a snack. Parents attending the parent forum last week agreed that this pricing was fair.



Head teacher: Mrs Rachel Ray

Chair of Governors: Mr Stuart Simpson

Those of you who live out of catchment wouldn't have chosen Langton if you couldn't make other arrangements for dropping-off and collecting your children, but we hope that you too will make use of the after-school clubs.

Once Sam has had her training and set you up, you will be able to pay for school meals and clubs using Parent Pay. Payments for the current after-school clubs will be made each half term in advance with requests for further care being a week in advance.

The governors agree with Mrs Ray that having a school uniform gives our children an identity. We appreciate that cost is an important factor, so the only change will be that we would like all children to wear an emerald green sweatshirt or cardigan bearing the school logo. There will be no change to other items of uniform which we feel will keep the cost sensible. Parents attending last week's forum looked at samples and costs and agreed that the current suppliers gave best value as these garments wash well and keep their shape. Some wanted thinner tops, and so Mrs Ray is finding out if these can be supplied. This uniform top will be standard for all new starters and new tops bought for our current children, but we appreciate that some of you already have other tops which you can hand down to younger siblings. Over time, everyone will have uniform tops. Parents also agreed that we should hold regular swap sessions where parents can bring uniform that their children have grown out of and, for a donation to school, take other items.

We are still awaiting building work at school. The carpet in the entrance hall can't be replaced until the roof is properly fixed, although we are due to have temporary carpet tiles fitted in the short term. We are currently waiting for this roof and window work. These things are done via the council. However, we continue to upgrade the school in other ways as our budget allows. The new tyre park is very popular which was paid for with a lottery grant. We are organising additional fencing within the hedge on the playground as there are quite open patches evident when there are no leaves on the bushes. Our major project is to improve the outdoor area for Class 1. The canopy leaks and we can't clean it because it isn't strong enough to take someone's weight. Leaves blow in when it is windy, and so it is not the fabulous learning environment it could be. It is a legal requirement for Early Years children to have free flow to an outdoor area, so we are currently getting quotes for a better replacement. We are also investigating the best ways to improve our IT provision for the children and how we can improve road safety in the village for our children.

The support we get in school from North Yorkshire has decreased significantly over the last two years and government spending cuts mean that all schools have to be more creative and flexible in getting staff training, support services and ensuring sustainability. Our school is already involved in a number of school clusters whereby staff share ideas, skills & training. Small schools like ours operating entirely on their own will be a thing of the past and groups of schools under various guises are growing up in North Yorkshire. Any school not doing this voluntarily is likely to be forced into some kind of merger in the future. As you know, our governors have been proactive

in this and are still considering seriously becoming an academy under the umbrella of Norton College. When our two schools forwarded information before Christmas, there were some queries, mostly around Norton's information which had to be looked at before the proposal could be put to the board. These queries have now been resolved and, once we have forwarded our up-to-date information on numbers and budgets, we expect the proposal to go to the board for consideration. Once we have the outcome from this we will arrange a meeting to update you.

Now that spring really does seem to be around the corner, we would like to wish you all a Happy Easter.

The Langton Governing Body