



*"All Learning Together"*

Langton Primary School  
Langton  
Malton  
North Yorkshire  
YO17 9QP

Tel/Fax: 01653 658236  
Email: [admin@langton.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@langton.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
[www.langton.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.langton.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I apologise for the length of this letter – but there seems so much that needs to be said. This letter comes out instead of the newsletter. Going forward, we will communicate with you via email and updates on the website – please do look out for these.

I write to you as we are facing totally unprecedented circumstances. Closing School is something that saddens me – especially as we had so many exciting things planned coming up in the run up to Easter and in the Summer term. Of course, at this stage, we don't know how long the closure will be in place. It is always my personal aim to keep school open however I understand the importance of closing as we aim to keep well and ensure the least strain on our NHS as possible. Provision will be in place for pupils of key workers. I sent a separate email about this this morning. I will continue to work with colleague headteachers and North Yorkshire Council to plan what this provision will be going forward but in the meantime those who have communicated with me regarding a key worker place will have access to childcare from Monday.

School is of course closed for very good reason and I must reiterate what I wrote in my earlier email – provision is only available to children of key workers for whom no other childcare is possible. Sending children into school must be an absolute last resort. We must remember that children at school are to be the most vulnerable and most at risk – being the children of key workers. The more children, the more risk to all concerned including the teachers and their families.

Yesterday, teachers sent a test email from the new class email address which we will use to send homework to you. Thank you for all your lovely and encouraging responses. Work will be sent home to you at 9.30am on Monday mornings for the duration of the time we are away from school. Please bear with us if there are a few teething problems. We are hopeful all will go according to plan. All staff will be in school on Monday so hopefully we can iron out any issues. If you need to talk to me for any reason, please feel free to call the school to speak to me. I would rather speak to you in person that have you worrying about the situation and not having answers.

As far as the work being sent home is concerned, we do not want you to feel pressured to carry this out in any particular way. It is however, extremely important that a routine of some description is in place for our children. Children need routine to help them feel safe and this is especially important at a time when our children are no doubt picking up on our worries despite our best efforts to keep them away from the children. Use the work to help you organise your day. I know many of you are working from home and I

Head teacher: Mrs Rachel Ray  
Chair of Governors: Mr Howard Widdall

Creates opportunity



Releases potential



Achieves excellence

appreciate how difficult it is to manage this and plan for looking after your children too. Below is an example of a timetable that was circulating on the internet. I do not include this as an instruction. Far from it – as many of you would not be able to arrange this due to your own working commitments – but I do believe, as I have said, that our children need routine, especially at the moment.

Time	Activity
Before 9am	Wake up
9-10am	Morning Walk
10-11am	Academic time
11-12pm	Creative time
12pm	Lunch
12.30 – 1pm	Helping with jobs in the house
1– 2pm	Quiet Time
2 – 3.15pm	Academic Time
3.15-4.30pm	Afternoon Fresh Air time
4.30-5pm	Quiet Time
5-6pm	Dinner Time
6-8pm	Free time/TV Time
8pm onwards	Bedtime Routine

The class emails that we have set up are for the purpose of homework and I request, for that purpose only. Staff will respond to the return emails about what the children have done, but I do need to protect the well-being of my staff. I ask therefore, that if for some reason you are not happy with the work, the class email is not used for negative comments. I can assure you that staff will be doing their utmost to plan work that is appropriate. We also need to remember that what is being asked of school staff has increased significantly from the first news of imminent school closure. Teachers and school staff who are able will continue to come into work, in which ever format it evolves, and I ask for your understanding about what we are trying to do. For these of you who do have concerns, please send them to me rather than your child’s class teacher. This being said, you are all fantastically supportive parents for which I am so very grateful and I am confident that through this difficult time, we shall continue to work together for the best of our children.

I have spoken to the children in our assembly today. I did remind the children that there would be an expectation that they should complete all/most of the work sent home. Some children will be able to do more than others and I leave this to you as parents to decide what is best. However, if you are very efficient and run out of work to do, please do not ask us for more – we will send more out on Mondays. Use the additional learning time for all of those learning activities that will be of huge benefit but that we don’t always have time to do – learning to tie shoe laces, tell the time, work out what different road signs mean, learn the names of British birds and plants – the list goes on. I have seen super lists on the internet recently. Please use these resources if you need to – and ENJOY THIS EXTRA TIME WITH YOUR CHILDREN. Believe you me, I know it won’t be easy, to be living together in such close proximity for such a long time. But we might look back on this time and realise how special it was to have quality time to spend with our immediate loved ones. I also reminded the children today to help around the house, listen to what their parents ask them to do and hopefully they understand they can do their bit to help this time pass as smoothly for you all as possible.

We are informed that pupils in receipt of free school meals are entitled to some form of support with this. At this stage, we are not clear whether this might take the form of vouchers or similar. There is also the possibility of a packed lunch being prepared but parents would have to collect from school. Please speak to Mrs Ray if you have any queries about this.

We are aware that due to the cancellation of events, there will be monies which need to be repaid. This is a large task. We will complete it but please understand that at the moment other tasks are taking priority and we will address this as soon as we are able.

I am aware that a few families have been off school for a reasonable amount of time already. Many of you will still have your children's belongings in school. As school will be open next week, please do feel free to pop in and collect the belongings, especially any medicines and inhalers. For those of you who have children in school today, we will endeavour to send everything, including medicines, home with your child but again, if you find that things are still in school, please feel free to come into school next week if you are well, to pick them up. Please do ring the school in advance so we are aware you are coming.

At this stage, we are not sure when schools will be open again – we do hope to see our Year 6 children before they leave for Secondary School. If in the event of school not reopening in time, we shall invite the Year 6 pupils back in September at some stage so they can see their buddies and us all and I will liaise with secondary schools about this. I have the ordering of leavers hoodies fairly near the top of my (extensive) to do list! This year, as it is special circumstances, we shall use the Year 6 FoLS money to pay for the hoodies. It goes without saying – but it must be said – that we are extremely proud of our Year 6 children. They have worked incredibly hard. The progress they have all made, particularly this year has been impressive. I am gutted for them that they might not be able to be part of leavers events. However, we know that this action has to take place and our Year 6 children and families (some of whom have been part of the Langton Family for many years) are particularly in our thoughts.

A HUGE thank you to you all for your support. A MASSIVE thank you also to our fabulous staff. This is such a difficult time as school key workers ourselves - the direction we are going is changing on almost an hourly basis. This is where the strength of our Langton Staff Team is even more evident. I will miss all the staff so very much. We have such a happy time at work. I have never laughed so much in any job. Ever. We shall of course be in work but possibly working in a different way so things will be different I am sure.

All the staff have said how much we shall miss the children. I know we all want things to get back to normal as soon as we can – but in the meantime, it is imperative we follow all the advice regarding social distancing and self-isolation – all these terms that are now part of our everyday language.

I wish you all the very best. As we are all saying at the moment, stay safe and well – and look after our precious Langton extended family.

Rachel Ray