



*"All Learning Together"*

Langton Primary School  
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9<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all, and a very warm welcome back to the new school term. I trust that you all had a good Christmas. The children certainly seem bright and ready for the new term ahead. I hope not too many of you have been affected by the horrible bug that has been going round. A few of our staff members, including myself, have suffered over the holidays – however, we're all fighting fit and ready for the new term now!

One of our key priorities this term is going to be improve school attendance. Whilst there are always times when children need to be kept off school due to illness (we do require a 48 hour timeframe before returning to school if your child has been physically sick), there are also times when children are well enough to come into school even if they are feeling slightly under the weather. I have spoken with the children this morning in assembly about our aims for the year and as part of this, I have reminded the children about the importance of coming to school every day. I would also very much appreciate your support in keeping holiday bookings to our school holidays. I do appreciate the cost implications of this, however, as a local authority school, we are bound by the local authority guidelines with regards to absence from school. In the event of a holiday being a requirement within term time, you must complete a Holiday Request Form stating the reasons for the request. Supplementary information may be requested from the school, such a Doctor's note or a letter from an employer. As I have explained in previous newsletters, our attendance has been falling and it is crucial that we reverse that trend. Many thanks for your help with this. We are also requesting that all pupils arrive for school in good time. School starts at 8.45am. The online register closes shortly after this. Children who arrive after this time may have to be marked as absent. We were delighted on the day we went to see the pantomime before Christmas that all children arrived at school on time. Again, I appreciate your support with this. Next week, Sam and I are meeting with Claire Mortimer (Business Manager at Leavening). We will be ensuring that we have a consistent approach to attendance management and I will send out more information over the coming weeks.

The Spring Term is always a hardworking one. Our SATS Booster Club for Year 6 pupils begins next Tuesday. Our other clubs are starting from today. Many thanks to Sam for organising our Clubs lists. Please can I highlight our new Gymnastics Club which is running on a Wednesday night between 3.15 and 4.15pm. This is being run by Jo Dale, due to our involvement with the Malton Sports Partnership. There are still spaces for this club so please do contact Sam if you would like your child to participate in this club. Another new club running this term is our Oasis Lunchtime Club. This will be held in the After School Club room on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime. This is a "drop-in" club for children who feel that they would like to stay in and play games and do crafts at lunchtime. Perhaps if children are feeling slightly under the weather or for some reason might prefer a gentler pace at lunchtime, there will be 12 passes each day that the class teachers will have so children just need to ask their class teacher in the morning for a pass. Many thanks to Mrs Cummings for running this club in her own time.

Head teacher: Mrs Rachel Ray  
Chair of Governors: Mr Andrew Priestley

Creates opportunity



Releases potential



Achieves excellence

I am so proud of how smart our children look at school. At the start of this new year, please can I remind you that we expect full school uniform incorporating the Langton logoed sweatshirt or cardigan and black school shoes. It is also part of our dress code that girls with long hair wear it up, and nail varnish is removed.

Curriculum newsletters will be sent out on Friday to inform you of the topics your children will be studying this term.

This Thursday, we have our second Open Afternoon for prospective pupils looking for a place in Reception in September. Please do encourage anyone you know who may be undecided about a school place for September to come along to our **Open Afternoon between 1.00 and 3.00pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**. We currently have places available in every year group and as always, we are happy to welcome any new starters, whether in September or mid-year.

We are all looking forward to seeing the first signs of Spring. This term the children will be choosing a new piece of play equipment for the playground. We have already purchased a badminton set which will be incorporated into PE sessions, and we are planning some music and art activities. I am hoping to organise a visit from an artist to come and run workshops with the children this term. In February, we will be having a whole school Handwriting competition, to once again raise the profile of the importance of neat presentation. **Our first FoLS Meeting is next Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 6.15pm** in school. It would be wonderful to welcome some new faces, particularly from some of our new families who joined us in September. We would love to hear new ideas about how we can continue to raise funds to support our wonderful school.

Very best wishes,

Rachel Ray  
Headteacher