

**Executive Head Teacher**

Melanie Smallwood

Head of School

Sarah Rushworth

12/09/25**Autumn Term 1**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year! It has been a busy start to the year and the children have been amazing, settling into their new year groups and learning. Walking around the classes, they are all focused and engaged and already keen to share their learning. On the playground, they have been working hard to be respectful and safe.

There are already many dates for the term ahead to add to your diaries, so please check the list below. These include visits from authors as part of the Appledore Book Festival. The PTA have kindly funded this event and a charity called 'Books for Home' have provided books for all of the children, which can be signed by the authors when they visit. We are really lucky to be able to take part in this experience and look forward to sharing it with you in the next newsletter!

We thank you for your ongoing support of the school and your child/ren. Remember, if you have a concern, idea or question, please contact us via families@langtree-school.org straight away so we can work with you to support the best outcomes for the children.



Please see below important dates and information that you may find useful.

12/9/25	Swimming for year 3 & 5 10 sessions Dates of lessons: 12th, 19th, 26th, September 3rd 10th, 17th October 7th, 14th 21st 28th November
23/9/25	Tanya Landman visiting Author for Years 3-6
24/9/25	Tracey Corderoy visiting Author for Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2
25/9/25	Dave Cousins visiting author whole school
15/10/25	Harvest Festival in the Parish Hall - Hall will be open to parents at 2.15pm and performance at 2.30pm
24/10/25	Last day of school for $\frac{1}{2}$ term
3/11/25	First day back
13/11/25	Tempest - School Photos
21/11/25	Flu immunisations
21/11/25	Children in Need (School council to arrange)
24/11/25	Parent Consultations week
27/11/25 - 18/12/25	Advent assemblies with Rev Warren/Rev Catherine
8/12/25	Christmas performance Parish Hall 2.30pm
10/12/25	Christingle
17/12/25	Christmas dinner
19/12/25	Last day of term

Please see the Spring/Summer 2024/25 menu on the school website or [here](#).

Apply for Primary School Places

The portal for applications for Primary School places is now **OPEN**, until 15/1/26. If your child is heading into reception in September 2026, please get your application in before the closing date above.

Staffing News

As some of you may know, Mrs Heard has moved on to pastures new. She had been at Langtree for over 25 years and positively impacted the lives of so many children and families here. She worked for many years in Early Years as well as providing outdoor learning provision and PE for all children. The children have many fond memories of Mrs Heard and will have the chance to share these with her through cards and letters. If you would like to make a contribution to her leaving gift, please see Miss Wildern in the office.

We are in the process of ensuring that the roles Mrs Heard had, are filled and want to reassure you that inter-school sport, sport festivals and outdoor learning opportunities will continue.

Dropping Children off in the morning...

The teachers have sent out their own welcome emails, but we wanted to just remind everyone about drop off arrangements. It's really important that we all support the children to develop independence, keep cloakrooms clear and allow staff time to settle children into their classrooms. It goes without saying that if you have a concern we would like to know and support you as quickly as possible so, if it is urgent, please pop in. However, where possible please phone/email to make an appointment or catch the teacher at the end of the day when they have more time. Please see the drop off points below.

Drop Off Points

Acorns/Oak - drop off to the staff at the classroom doors.

Beech - Year 2 at the bottom of the classroom steps/Year 3 & 4 at the green gate at the top of the steps.

Sycamore - at the main gate or green gate at the top of the steps.

Lateness

Just a reminder that your child must be settled into class ready for lessons to start at 9.05am. The gates open at 8.45am to allow time for this. Regular lateness can have a significant impact on your child's learning and contributes towards unauthorised absence. If this is something you are finding difficult, please get in touch with us so we can help support you to find a solution. We are always here ready to listen.

We also understand that sometimes unpredictable events may cause delays. In these instances, please contact the school as soon as you are able.

Reporting absences

If your child is absent please phone the school office before 9.15am everyday your child is not in school. In the event we are unable to answer please leave an answer phone message. Thank you.

School Dinners

Thank you for your co-operation this term in making sure your child's dinners are booked in advance via Eduspot/SchoolMoney. A reminder to year 3 parents; now your child is no longer in receipt of Universal infant free school meals (Reception-Year 2) you will now be charged for any dinners ordered, unless you receive universal credit in which you can apply for free school meals via the below link. Until your application is approved by Devon County Council, you will continue to be charged for any dinners you book up until then.

How to apply -

Apply through the [Devon Citizens Portal](#). This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

PE Days

- Years 1 and 2 and Years 4 and 6 will all have P.E on a Friday afternoon.
- Years 3 and 5 will be swimming on a Friday afternoon.
- Reception will be joining nursery for P.E and outdoor play on a Friday afternoon.

All children can come to school in their P.E kit on a Friday, including those who are swimming.

Nursery

We hope everyone had a great summer. It has been really lovely welcoming the children back into Acorn Class. They have settled back into nursery life brilliantly.

This term's topic is All about me which the children have loved sharing photos and telling us all about their families.

Afterschool Construction Club

From Thursday 18th September, Construction Club will run after school for years R-6 until 4.20pm. Each week, they will try different construction/engineering themed challenges using a variety of materials/construction toys. There is no cost and there are still places left. You can sign your child/ren up via Eduspot/SchoolMoney.

Weather

Due to the changes in weather please could you ensure that your child has a named waterproof coat in school. If your child needs a spare set of clothes due to toileting issues, please bring these in as we are running very low on spare clothes.

Lost Property

We have an increasing number of cardigans and jumpers in lost property, as well as lunch boxes & tubs. The lost property is in the main hall and is available after school for you to have a look if your child has misplaced any items.

Please label your child's uniform, coats, tubs, lunch boxes and water bottles as this will help your child find their lost items.

Flu Immunisations - 21ST November

All children in Reception-Year 6 are offered the Flu Immunisation. Please complete the form in the email that has been sent out, to opt in.

Music Lessons

Ania Job visits us every Tuesday to provide flute or piano lessons. She is a very experienced teacher who has successfully coached a number of our children through exams over the past two years.

Lessons can be individual or paired (which halves the cost).

If you are interested in your child/ren having lessons, please contact Ania directly at

aniaflute@gmail.com

Langtree Community school Parent & Teacher Association (PTA)

Would you be able to commit some time to become a part of the School PTA...

Raising money for the school, to improve things for our children through various fund-raising events and grant applications. We couldn't achieve this without the support of the parents and families of the children so thank you all for your ongoing support.

Anyone can join the PTA, please speak to Miss Wildern in the office or anyone on the PTA. The more people we have the more the support we can share between each other.

We work with school to see what they have on their wish list for funds to be used on.

The funds raised have gone towards-

- New footballs and netballs. Also new balls for games trolley, 3 new large chalk boards and a new tuff tray for playtime.
- X6 ear defenders, X6 lcd drawing pads, X5 liquid motion sensory times.
- Compost for school gardening boxes.
- Leavers Hoodies for Year 6.

As well as many other amazing class items.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

GTS YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 - OPEN MORNINGS & OPEN EVENING

Open Mornings from Monday 22nd September through to Friday 26th September. Arrival from 8.50am. Tours start at 9.05am.

See the school in action. This is the ideal opportunity to get a real feel for the atmosphere of the school and ask your tour guides lots of questions. Parents and pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are welcome to attend our Open Mornings. The morning tours get underway with a welcome talk before having a tour around our school. At the end of the tour, you are welcome to stay for light refreshments and talk to members of our Senior Leadership Team.

If your child is attending this please ensure you let the office know at your school

Open Evening on Monday 29th September from 6pm - 8pm

Staff and pupils look forward to welcoming all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and their families to our Open Evening. Please arrive early to allow time to be seated in the Drama Studio for the Headteacher's welcome at 6pm. There will be a second introduction at 7pm to allow for numbers. Following a welcome talk from our Headteacher, you will have the opportunity to wander around our school. All department areas will be open and staffed for you to ask any questions you may have about GTS.

To book a place on our tours, please register a place using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/y7m79riFLd>

Have a great weekend!