**Newsletter**

**Autumn 1 2018**

**Harvest Festival**

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who attended our harvest festival this term. Both were fantastically well attended which was great to see and the children thoroughly enjoyed performing their harvest songs. Thank you also for the donations of produce for The Bay foodbank. As every year, they were delighted with the sheer volume, so well done and thank you!

**Parking**

I have recently been in communication with Monkseaton Medical Centre who unfortunately are witnessing some of our parents parking in their section of the car park. Can I again please ask that parents park in the community section of the car park and leave the medical centre side for those attending the doctor’s surgery. I also request that the parents who continually park outside of wraparound on the double yellow lines also use the car park. Double yellow lines are there for a reason, no matter what time of the day, so please respect the Highway Code and be a responsible road user.

**Go Smarter – change model**

You may remember last year we had the Go smarter team in school to encourage everyone to consider how they were travelling to school. This was due to Langley being one of the worst offending schools for children living the closest but being driven to school. We hosted Dr Bike who helped fix some of the children’s bikes and also had the council’s camera car visit for the day which all the children got a chance to sit inside and see how it works.

Following a recent survey within classes we can report that the percentage of children using a sustainable mode of transport has risen from 60% in 2017 to 68% this year. Whilst this is definitely good news it does still mean that nearly a third of people are using their car to come to school. So, to try and help the situation, the Go Smarter team have been working with our Eco Councillors and we hope to see some slight alterations to the path and pavement up to the school gates which hopefully will continue to encourage parents and children to walk to school wherever possible.

**Attendance**

As with most schools, we take attendance and punctuality at school very seriously. If a child misses a lesson or even part of a lesson then they are being put at a disadvantage for future learning. Whilst we understand that children will be ill at some point during their time at school which cannot be foreseen, we ask that the things that can be planned, holidays, dentist or medical appointments are made for outside of school hours. If your child has a medical or dentist appointment which has to be done in school time then please provide us with a copy of the appointment letter or card. For more information the attendance policy can be found on the school website ([langelyfirst.org.uk](http://www.langelyfirst.org.uk))

**Reflection bench and Memory tree**

If you enter via Drumoyne Gardens or walk past this end of the school site you will have noticed a newly installed bench near to the pedestrian gate. This is placed in memory of one of our pupils who sadly passed away over the summer holidays. In addition to this, the children from year 2 to 3 have also been given the opportunity to decorate a disk in memory of someone or something they have lost, with these being hung from the tree above the stage area opposite the bench. We hope that this area can become somewhere children can go to for a time of reflection or just some quiet time if and when needed.

**Website**

Hopefully you will have been made aware at parents’ evenings this week but in case I missed you, from this week we have launched our new and improved website. The address remains the same [langleyfirst.org.uk](http://www.langleyfirst.org.uk) however the format has been much improved and now can be used on any device, not just a PC. The website has the school calendar embedded on the home page and events or the whole calendar can be linked to your own device/calendar. In addition to this, each year group has their own section under the ‘Class News’ tab where we will upload all specific letters and information ascertaining to that year. Finally, you will notice there is a new twitter feed feature. Any letters and information that school uploaded to the site will automatically send a notification through this. I will also begin to share the whole school achievements such as Golden Assembly pictures on a Friday.
Due to this development I will begin to phase out the school APP over the next couple of months. Whilst the APP has been a great tool for sharing news with parents I have been made aware that there have been numerous issues with areas such as the calendar and therefore hope that the website functionality will be more robust and effective moving forward.

**Parents’ Evening**

It has been fantastic to see all our parents coming in this week to meet with staff. I hope it has been productive and enabled you not only to speak to your child’s teacher but also to get to see in their books and their classroom too. Thank you also to everyone who took the time to complete the health and wellbeing survey. The results from this will be collated with the staff and pupil survey and then we will compile an action plan with the key headings shared with parents. If you would be interested in supporting school in this area through joining a working group to drive the action plan forward then please get in touch with school either by speaking to me on the yard or emailing the school account.

**Upcoming** **events**

As always the second half of the autumn term is packed with events. Please make sure that you keep up to date with everything that is going on in school by checking the calendar on the website. Dates for the majority of events are already listed and hopefully will not be changed from now.

**Date for your diary - Friends of Langley Christmas Fair – Friday 30th November**

Thank you for all your support over the first half term of this year and remember, remember we return to school on Monday 5th November!

I wish you a trick or treat filled half term holiday and look forward to continuing to working together next half term.

Mr. T Jones

Headteacher