

News from the Early Years Team



Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2018

A huge 'Early Years' welcome to all of you joining us this year at Langtoft. I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer and join us in looking forward to a fantastic year in the Foundation Stage!

Our first topic this year is 'All About Me' where we will be encouraging the children to get to know each other and discuss their likes and dislikes. This will lead onto the children exploring any particular interests they have as well as learning about the changes in seasons.

All About Me

We will be learning about the different parts of our bodies and exploring what we can do with them. We will consider how our bodies have grown and changed since we were babies and get messy through drawing and painting our own portraits. We will also be practising getting undressed and dressed into our P.E. kits.

My Five Senses



We will be investigating our five senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell through exploration of the world around us. We will taste a variety of foods and discuss likes and dislikes. We will be playing 'guess that smell', 'guess that sound', blindfold games, dipping our hands into feely bags to describe what we can feel, as well as exploring a range of textured and scented items during play.

Autumn

We will be exploring our school grounds to look for signs of autumn and learn about seasonal changes. The children will also take part in a Harvest Festival service at school and begin to learn about where our food comes from.



Literacy

We will begin to teach reading and writing through the phonics scheme *Read Write Inc.* New letter sounds will be introduced daily to the children and they will soon begin to recognise and write individual sounds and start to blend sounds together to read short words. The children will be given the opportunity to practise these sounds at home. Packs of five sounds will be sent home each Friday. If you have time (and you feel that your child is ready) you could also help your child to practise writing their name using the correct letter formation. Try to encourage them to hold their pencil correctly so that it becomes a natural habit and makes writing feel more comfortable for them. At school we say, 'Remember to use your pinchy fingers.'

Mathematics



In mathematics the focus is on counting, recognising, writing and ordering numbers within ten. The children will be saying which numbers are 'more or less' as well as estimating and checking amounts. We will also be recognising, creating and describing shapes and patterns using mathematical language.

Lining up in the mornings

The children have been fantastic at settling into school this week and so **from Monday 17th September we will line up on the main playground before school each morning** with the children in Year 1 and 2. The bell will ring at **8.55am** and a member of the Foundation Stage team will collect the children from the playground. We ask that you say your goodbyes when the bell rings and that you allow the children to walk in by themselves.



At the end of the school day, we dismiss the children one at a time and the children know not to run off to parents without our permission. It helps if you give us a little wave so we know you are looking when your child is walking towards you. If someone else is due to collect your child please let one of the Foundation Stage team know, either verbally or by writing a note in your child's reading diary.

Information sessions for parents

You are asked to attend three meetings to give you information about the Early Years Foundation Stage including how we teach reading, writing and mathematics as well as how you can support your child at home. ***Please note the Reading Workshops are adult only events but we encourage you to attend the Calculation workshop with your child so that you can join in with their learning.***



Our first workshop was yesterday and we were really pleased to see so many of you there. We are glad that you were able to come along and get involved with your child's learning in this way. Our next sessions are:

Calculation Workshop

Thursday 27th September at 3:30pm or 6:00pm

This session gives you information about how mathematics is taught to your child at school. It will offer you an insight into the processes your child will begin to use and apply when learning about numbers, shape, space and measure.

Reading Workshop Part 2 Please note the change of date

Tuesday 6th November at 9:00am or 6:30pm

This workshop revises the early 'pure sounds' from Workshop Part 1 and early blending and goes a step further to introduce parents to long vowel sounds and how they are taught at school. Reading books and strategies for decoding tricky words will also be shared, alongside information on the teaching of writing.



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or ar air ir ou oy

Can you help us?

There are many valuable ways in which you can 'get involved' and contribute during your child's year in the Foundation Stage. Here are just a few that you may be interested in:

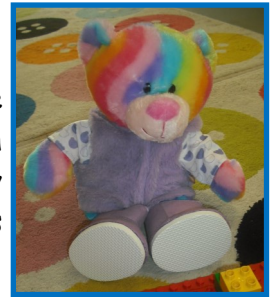
- Joining F.O.L.S. (Friends of Langtoft School) and helping to raise funds to benefit the children in the school.
- Collecting and sending in crafty bits or junk modelling for use by the children in their play, including unwanted rolls of wallpaper for the children to draw or 'write' on the back of.
- Loaning us artefacts, story books and information books and anything else linked to our topics.
- Donations of unwanted toys and books in good condition. We are in the process of replacing some of our plastic resources with more natural materials (particularly for the outdoor area) so if you have an unwanted metal/ wooden pots, pans, jugs, utensils or baskets we could put them to good use!



- Also please come and speak to one of us if you have any expertise or links to the topics we are doing throughout the year and would like to share these with the children.

Rainbow Bear

Rainbow Bear is our class bear. He will go home with a child each Friday and will be due back the following Friday so you will have one week with him. He will join in with your activities at home and then your child will tell everyone about it when they bring him back to school. This is an excellent speaking and listening opportunity as the rest of the class will ask them questions.



Wow Moments



As discussed at the Reading Workshop yesterday this year the children will have a paper learning journal as well as an online journal known as Tapestry. We will send more information out about this soon. Once Tapestry is up and running you will be able to contribute to your child's portfolio online but until then every couple of weeks you will find a small slip in your child's book-bag entitled '**Wow Moment!**' Please write something special that your child has achieved or done since they started school, whether it be reading a house number, finding a letter sound they know, using an app on the iPad, going up a stage at swimming...anything! We want to know! These will then be added to your child's 'Learning Journal'. Please remember to write the date on WOW moments. Thank you.

Photo

Finally, as part of our 'All About Me' topic we would like each children to bring in a photo of when they were younger to share and talk about how they have grown and changed. The photo could be a print out or photocopy as we would like to stick their picture into their Learning Journal.

Thank you for your support. We hope that you and your child have a great first term. Please do not hesitate to come and see us with any queries or concerns, no matter how small.

Miss Bytheway and Mrs Hudson