

Welcome to the Foundation Stage



Dear Parents/Carers,

September 2020

A huge welcome to everyone 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. I am very impressed with how well the children have settled in.

Being Me

Our first topic this year is 'Being 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. 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.

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', blind-fold 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. This will lead to various art activities and messy play.



Literacy

On Monday 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.

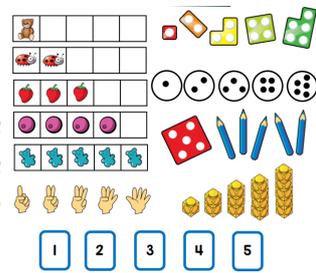
The children will be given the opportunity to practise these sounds at home. **A pack of five sounds will be sent home each Friday. Please look at these with your child and help them recognise the sounds.** They can have a go at writing them too.

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' to form a grip using thumb and index finger.

Your child will also bring home a picture book from the reading area that they have chosen to share with you. There will be a set day that we change your child's book during the week. **Please write in your child's Home School Record** when they have read with you or practised their sounds.

Mathematics

In mathematics, the focus is on counting, recognising, writing and ordering numbers up to 5. The children will be saying which numbers are 'more or less' as well as estimating and checking amounts. We will be recognising, creating and describing shapes and patterns using mathematical language.



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.
- 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! We are also in need of a little table for our role-play area (small Ikea type), wooden planks and a cable reel for our outdoor area if anyone has any that they are getting rid of. Thank you in advance.



- 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.

Tapestry: Wow Moments and Observations

We encourage you to contribute to your child's portfolio online using Tapestry. You can download the App on your phone or tablet as well as accessing it on a computer or laptop. You can add your own observations about what your child has been doing at home. This can be about anything you feel is relevant e.g. growing tomatoes, recognising numbers on a puzzle, making words with magnetic letters on the fridge, discussing a book from the library, collecting conkers in the woods, climbing the monkey bars in the park, baking cakes: the list is endless! We love to see what your child has been doing at home and it gives us an insight into what they can do and what their interests are. If you have any questions regarding Tapestry please just ask.

Home time

We dismiss the children one at a time and the children know not to run off to adults 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 (or contact the school office).

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 book.

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.

Mrs Bytheway and Mrs Hudson