

Caring ~ Considerate ~ Cooperative ~ Courteous ~ Conscientious



Langtoft Primary School

School Closure – Update #6

Thursday 30 April 2020

Stay home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

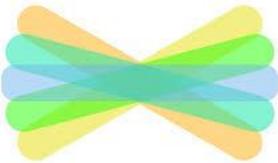
This update outlines the plans for week beginning 4 May 2020.

Next update due on Thursday 7 May 2020.

SEESAW

We are using an app called Seesaw across the school (except in EYFS – you have Tapestry; please keep on using that) from Monday 4 May. Seesaw will allow your child to upload their learning from home for their teacher/s to see and comment on. This will provide the feedback from 'school' that learning at home does not provide and that some of you have asked for.

(Parents/carers of children in Y3 and Y4 already have access to Seesaw as part of a trial we've been running so can jump to the next set of brackets!)



On Tuesday you were sent a ParentMail message asking you to give consent **by tomorrow** for us to create an account for your child. We apologise that the first version of the form would not allow you to 'tick a box'. The second version corrected this fault so please make sure you submitted again. All parents/carers in Y1, Y2, Y5 and Y6 that give their consent via ParentMail **by tomorrow** will receive a 'how to' guide on Monday 4 May.

(Parents/Carers of children in Y3 and Y4 can start to reuse Seesaw now. Nothing has changed for you. In case you have forgotten how to use Seesaw, a reminder guide will be sent on Monday, too.)

Please be aware that Seesaw will be the only way teachers will be feeding back on activities completed at home. **Please do not contact teachers through any other social media platform.** This puts teachers in an awkward position as our *Code of Conduct* does not allow them to engage with families in this way. As always, send an email to me in the established way. See the **NEED HELP?** section below.

MyMaths (Y1 to Y6) has the facility for teachers to feedback on the tasks completed. To read a teacher's comment, a child would need to return to previously completed jobs – there is no 'pop-up' notification that you have a message – and click on the 'scores' tab for that activity.

MONDAY MORNING MESSAGE

We hope your child enjoyed receiving a message from their teacher/s on Monday morning. Thank you for the messages of thanks you have sent, letting us know how well the teachers' messages were received. We shall continue to send a new message every Monday morning.

REFUNDS

We have begun to issue refunds for school visits via ParentMail. These have only been issued when the school has received a refund from the organiser or the school has yet to be charged and so the funds have yet to 'leave' the school's ParentMail account.

(NB Y5 residential visit to Ironbridge: we have yet to receive the refund from YHA and so do not have the funds available to pass this back to you. We will as soon as we do.)

THANK YOU

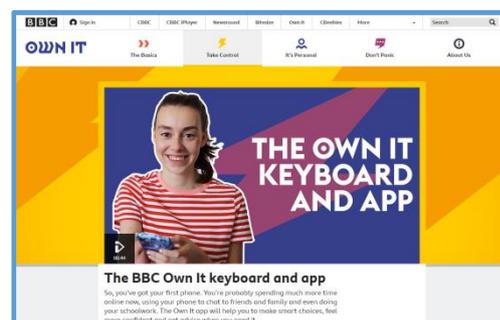
Thank you to whoever informed the United Charities of Deeping that our school was open for childcare of critical workers. We received a box of goodies from the associated charities to keep us going. The *Mr Kipling Trifle Bakewell* has been a particular favourite with Mrs Gaches!

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

- ◆ Thinkuknow have released their next set of activity sheets (their third altogether) to remind children about behaving safely online. Click [here](#) to visit their website and select the age-appropriate pages.
- ◆ The BBC's *Own It* app helps young people new to social media manage their well-being, whilst empowering children to make smart choices, and helping them to lead a positive life online.

The *Own It* app and keyboard lets children:

- get advice whenever they type
- track their feelings
- win badges as they reflect
- find help when they need it
- taking quizzes to learn more about themselves



The app also includes a special keyboard to use which offers helpful tips and friendly advice to children when they need it. The app can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Further information can be found here: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/own-it-app>

ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM TO BOOST WORKPLACE SKILLS LAUNCHED

Free courses are available through the new online platform, the Skills Toolkit. This platform signposts to free, high-quality digital and numeracy courses to help people build up their skills, progress in work and boost their job prospects and confidence whilst at home.

Courses on offer cover a range of levels, from everyday maths and the use of email and social media at work to more advanced training. All courses are available online and are flexible so that people can work through them at their own pace. The Skills Toolkit can be accessed here:

<https://theskillstoolkit.campaign.gov.uk/>

The information below is unchanged from last week:

NEED HELP?

If you are struggling with supporting your child with a particular area of learning (and 'google' hasn't provided the answer!), please be reminded that you can ask for help by emailing me at enquiries@langtoft.lincs.sch.uk State your child's name, year group and outline your problem. I can then forward this to your child's teacher/s who will be happy to help where they can. Please expect a reply in about two days.

KEEPING SAFE

With online activity likely to have increased during the lockdown, now is probably a good time to have another chat with your children about how they keep themselves safe online. I have updated our eSafety page on the school website.

THE SCHOOL CONTINUES TO BE CLOSED

To limit the chance of the virus spreading, the government has asked parents to keep their children at home and has asked schools to **remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend** because i) their parents' work is critical to the COVID-19 response ii) they are vulnerable children with an Education and Health Care Plan and/or a Social Worker. This message has now gotten through as we only have a very small number of children who need to access the school's childcare offer. This is only possible because staff are prepared to come to school and so I thank them most sincerely.

INFORMING THE SCHOOL THAT YOU NEED CHILDCARE

If you need to use the school for childcare because you are worker critical to the COVID-19 response and you have no other option, you must email me using the school's email address: enquiries@langtoft.lincs.sch.uk, stating:

- i) your child/ren's names
- ii) which sessions you require (morning and/or afternoon) on which days
- iii) the nature of your critical work

Please send your email **before and no later than 11:30 a.m. the day before** you need the school to be open for your child. For example, if you need to work on Thursday, you must have emailed by 11:30 a.m. of the morning of Wednesday. If you know in advance what your work pattern will be then please let me know for the week ahead. That will help me to plan.

If parents do not need childcare for their critical work, I will close the school that day.