



September 2017

News from the Early Years Team



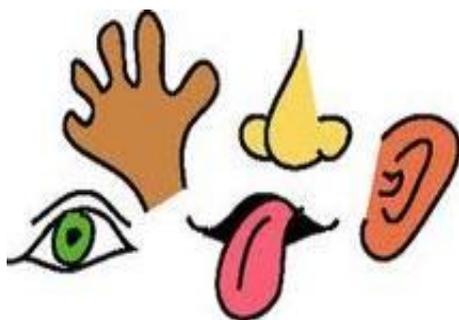
Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge 'Early Years' welcome to all 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', in which we will be encouraging the children to get to know themselves and their bodies a little better. This will lead onto the children exploring the changes in seasons and in the final week of term the children will begin to learn about Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights.

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.

Diwali

The children will be learning about the Hindu Festival of Lights and will take part in lots of creative activities such as drawing chalk rangoli patterns outside, creating Diva lamps from clay and making Diwali fudge.

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. 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 you could also help your child practise writing their name using the correct letter formation. Please encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly so that it becomes a natural habit and makes writing feel more comfortable for them.

As we explained at yesterday's workshop, the children will bring home a reading book today: initially it will be a wordless book. Encourage your child to look at the pictures and point things out, then on the second 'read' encourage some imaginative story telling! Don't forget to ask questions and make it fun. We will listen to your child read on a set day each week and on that day we will change their book. If you feel your child needs to change their book in the meantime please let us know.

Mathematics

In maths 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 18 September **will line up on the main playground before school each morning** with the children in Year One and Two. The bell will ring at **8.55am** each morning and a member of the Foundation Stage team will collect the children from the playground.

Collecting your child at the end of the day

The children have been amazing at staying in a smart line when being dismissed from the main playground. 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 maths 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 maths workshop with your child so that you can join in with their learning.***

Reading Workshop Part 1

Thursday 14th September at 9:00am or 6:30pm

We were really pleased to see so many of you at our first workshop yesterday. We are glad that you were to come along and get involved with your child's learning in this way.

Maths Workshop and The Early Years Curriculum

Thursday 28th September at 3:30pm or 6:00pm

This session offers you information about how Maths 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.

This also introduces parents to the children's daily routines and experiences in the Foundation Stage as well as promoting the importance of play in the children's development.

Reading Workshop Part 2

Thursday 9th November at 9:00am and 6:30pm

This workshop revises the early 'pure sounds' 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.

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.
- Helping in the classroom. (Please come and see us if you are interested – helping in the classroom will commence in Term 3).
- Donations of unwanted toys and books, in good condition.
- Also please come and speak to one of the team 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.

If you can think of any other ways in which you are able to help then please come and speak to me or one of the team!

Show and Tell

This term we will not have a set day for 'show and tell'. I would prefer the children to bring something in when their interest is sparked or when they would like to share something special that has happened to them.

Ideas for show and tell might be a photograph, book, artefact, object, collage, picture, model, painting, home-made book, or piece of writing, - the possibilities are endless.



Each child will be encouraged to speak in front of the rest of the class. It often helps to talk with your child about their chosen item beforehand. Here are a few things you might like to discuss:

- ➡ What is it and why have you chosen it?
- ➡ How is it linked to our theme, 'All About Me' / Autumn / Harvest / Diwali?
- ➡ Where did you find it? / How did you make it? / How does it work?

- For a story book – What is it about? Why do you like it? What happens at the beginning, middle and end?
- For a non-fiction book – What is it about? Which is your favourite part? How can you use the contents page to find your favourite part?

Requests

- Each week 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.



- P.E. this term will be games based activities and may take place indoors or outdoors (weather depending). We will be starting P.E. soon so please ensure that your child has suitable clothing, for both outdoors and indoors, in a bag in their locker. P.E. kits will be automatically sent home for washing at the end of each term.
- Please ensure that **all toys and valuables remain at home**. We don't want any special toys or comforters going missing!
- Finally, as part of our 'All About Me' topic we would like **each children to bring in a baby or toddler photo** 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
Foundation Stage Team