

# News from the Early Years Team



September 2016

Dear Parents,

A big '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 topic will be divided into two mini-topics, details of which are included below.

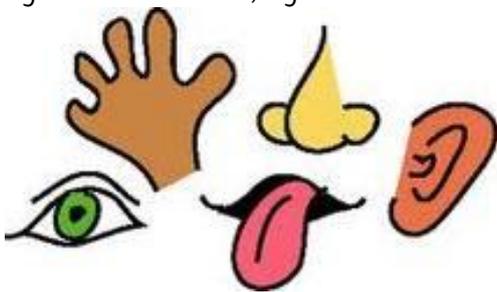
## My amazing body

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. In addition to this, we will be learning how to look after our bodies to keep them healthy, through washing, brushing our teeth, eating and exercising. We will also be practising getting undressed and dressed into our PE 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 learn about differences and similarities that can be described between the tastes of sweet and sour. 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.



We will also take the time to explore the sights, smells, sounds and tastes of the Christian Harvest Festival during the autumn season, and learn a little about where our food comes from. We are going to take part in a Harvest Festival service at our school.

In addition to this, 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 5 sounds will be sent home each **Friday**. During this term children will also focus on counting, recognising, writing, and ordering numbers 0-10, adding one more and one less to a group of objects, and creating and

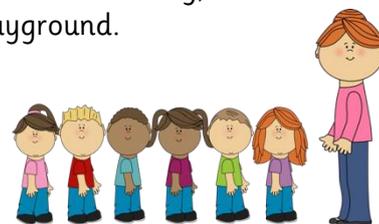
describing repeating patterns. The children will also be naming 2D shapes and beginning to describe their simple properties.

## Lining up in the mornings

The children have been fantastic at settling into school this week, from **Monday 12 September**, the Foundation Stage children will line up on the main playground before school each morning with the children in Years One and Two. The bell will ring at **8.55am** each morning, when a member of the Foundation Stage team will collect the children from the playground.

## Collecting your child at the end of the day

Children will be led out of the classroom by Miss Henson and will be dismissed from the main playground. Children are asked **NOT** to run off to parents without either Miss Henson, Mrs Bussey or Mrs Hudson's permission; this is simply for safety reasons so all children are accounted for! Please be patient with us whilst we familiarise ourselves with all the new faces and do give us wave if we can't see you!



## 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 and writing and maths, and how you can support your child at home. ***It is essential that parents attend. Please note these are adult only events.***

Meetings in the morning will take place in the hall and in the evening, the Foundation Stage classroom.

### Reading Workshop Part 1 and the Early Years Curriculum

**Thursday 15 September at 9:00am and 6:30pm**

This workshop will give information on how reading and writing is taught to your child at school. It will introduce parents to the 'pure sounds' used in early reading, and will give you advice about how you can support your child's learning at home. This also introduces parents to the children's daily routines and experiences in the Foundation Stage. It promotes the importance of play in the children's development and invites parents to get involved in writing home observations in the form of 'Wow moments' and 'Parent's and Child's Voice' alongside the class teacher.

### Maths Workshop

**Thursday 29 September at 3:30pm and 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.

### Reading Workshop Part 2

**Thursday 10 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. Their AGM takes place in the school hall on **Thursday 15 September at 6.00pm**, just before our first Information Evening;
- Collecting and sending in 'crafty bits' or 'junk modelling' for use by the children in their play;
- Lending us artefacts, story books and information books and anything else linked to our topics. This term we are looking for:
  - Cheap manual toothbrushes
  - Empty toothpaste boxes
  - Empty mouthwash bottles
  - Bandages
  - Empty plaster boxes
- Helping in the classroom (please come and see us if you are interested – helping in the classroom will commence in Term 4);
- Donations of unwanted toys and books, in good condition.

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!

## Groupings

During their year in the Foundation Stage, the children will be assigned to a group. They will put their book bags in the box with their group picture on. They will also be assigned a day for their group to do 'Show and Tell'.

The group names are as follows:



Lions



Pumas



Tigers

## Show and Tell

'Show and Tell' is a very popular activity with the children, and your child is invited to take part on their designated day. We do encourage all children to have a go at speaking in front of their friends and will be supported by us if necessary. Again, please come and approach us if you have any questions or concerns.

For parents new to 'Show and Tell', your child should bring just **one item** on the day allocated to their group (see table below). This item should be linked to the theme, which this term is **All**



**About Me.** It might be a photograph, book, artefact, object, collage, picture, model, painting, home-made book, or piece of writing, - the possibilities are endless.

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'?
- 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?

Dates for your child's Show and Tell are:

<b>Friday 30 September</b>	<b>Lions</b>
<b>Friday 7 October</b>	<b>Pumas</b>
<b>Friday 14 October</b>	<b>Tigers</b>

## 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, understanding a road sign, reading a word...anything! We want to know! These will then be added to their 'I can' folders.  
*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). Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing for PE, both outdoors and indoors, in a bag in their locker. PE kits will be automatically sent home for washing at the end of each term.
- Please ensure that **all toys/books/valuables remain at home** from Monday 12 September. I understand that this can be tricky; however, I hope you can support me in this matter. We don't want any special toys or comforters going missing!

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.

Regards

**Miss N. Henson**  
**Foundation Stage Leader/SENCO**