

LANGSTONE INFANT ACADEMY

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Headteacher: Miss V Page



Year R Update

Welcome

We would like to say a huge well done to all of our Reception children for settling so well into their new school. They have already picked up school routines and settled into school life very quickly. We really enjoy seeing such positive children accessing our learning environment and enjoying each other's company. It has been wonderful to speak to so many parents on the playground and see so many happy faces at the beginning and end of day.

Topic

We have already begun our topic 'My World' and have been enjoying getting to know your children more. The photos/ posters/ drawings of families that have been sent in have been amazing and the children have felt very proud seeing their work on display!

When Baseline Assessments have finished (see previous letter) we will continue to find out more about them through their learning. We will also be learning about our names and other people's names. We will be learning about numbers and how much each number represents.

We will also enjoy a range of books together, including 'Alfie' stories by Shirley Hughes and 'Peepo' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg.

A letter will be sent home next week to give you more information about how your child learns in Reception and the curriculum that they follow.

PE

We will begin PE sessions with the children on the **week beginning 4.10.21**. PE is on a **Wednesday**. Your child should come to school wearing their PE kit. Please be assured that the children have many opportunities to develop their fine and gross motor skills throughout their school day through a range of activities such as climbing, painting, brain breaks, threading activities and many more.

Reading

During these first couple of weeks we have been reading with all of the children to determine how best to support them to further develop their early reading skills.

As we begin to teach Phonics, we will send a small plastic wallet home with the sounds that your child has learnt. These can be used to make words and revisit together when your child is at home. Please ensure that this is kept in your child's book bag and brought to school **each day** so that we can add to them.

Once the children are secure on the sounds that they have learnt, we will also send home a reading book to match your child's phonic ability. This book is for your child to decode and apply their phonic skills. They will also be able to choose a book from our school library to bring home each week so that they are exposed to a range of texts and language.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask us. ***There will be more information about Phonics and how you can support your child, after the Half Term holiday.***

Lunchtimes

There have been some questions regarding lunchtime and what can/ cannot be provided for children. We provide water with hot dinners but children can bring their own **non fizzy** drink if they wish. We encourage the children to eat most of their lunch but don't insist they eat all of it. We send home anything they don't eat from their packed lunch so that you are aware of what they are eating. Some parents worry that their child may not eat the things in their packed lunches from home and tend to overfill them, we recommend up to a maximum of 5 items in a lunchbox such as: half a sandwich, a piece of fruit, a yoghurt, a biscuit bar, a small packet crisps. We are a healthy eating school so we ask that children do not bring sweets or chocolate bars. We also ask the children not to share their food as some children have food allergies. We are a nut free school- this includes spreads such as Nutella and items stating that they contain nuts. Don't worry if your child can't cut up their dinner or open packets the staff will assist them (although practicing opening packets; and using knives and forks with hot meals at home would be helpful), but it would be appreciated if you could peel fruits like oranges and put them in a container, ensure grapes are cut across the length; and don't forget a spoon for their yoghurts!

Behaviour

We expect all members of our school community to follow the Golden Rules (see below).

This week, the children have read stories that explain each rule. When the children follow the Golden Rules, they are praised. They may receive a sticker, a merit stamp or have their name moved onto 'Silver' or 'Gold'.

Each class has a set of cards in their classroom. When children show exceptional behaviour, they move from Green to the silver card and, if they continue to do wonderful things, they move on to gold. This is a very exciting time for the children!

On the rare occasion that a child persistently chooses to break a Golden Rule, they move their name to amber as a warning and reminder to turn their behaviour around. Unfortunately, if they continue to break Golden Rules, their name will move to the red card and they will sit out instantly for 5 minutes. During this 5 minutes, they are given the opportunity to reflect on the Golden Rules and how they can work hard to follow them. These occasions are incredibly rare as all adults work hard with the child to support them to make good choices.

All adults within the school are very keen to 'catch the positive' and reinforce behaviour expectations through verbal praise and stickers. Each child is also given a Merit Card. **A video providing more information about these will be on the school website soon!**



Home Time

At the end of each day please can the person who is collecting your child **wave** at the teacher to make themselves **visible** when your child is at the **front** of the line. Please don't beckon your child over until we send them to you. This is to ensure the safeguarding of your child until we get to know all of your faces well. With a variety of different people picking children up and 30 children in each class, there are a lot of faces for the staff to learn. We appreciate your patience while we go through this learning process.

And Finally...

Thank you for your continued support and patience as your child begins their journey in Year R. We appreciate that you have received a lot of information in the past few weeks and do hope that this helps you to feel as informed as possible about your child's school experience. As always, please do not hesitate to speak to an adult within your child's class if you have any questions.

Class1@langstone-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk (Mrs Bartlett)

Class2@langstone-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk (Miss Beckwith)

Class3@langstone-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk (Mrs Mitchell)

eyfslead@langstone-inf.portsmouth.sch.uk (Mrs Blakely- emails will be responded to Wednesday to Friday)

Best wishes

Mrs Blakely
EYFS Lead