

What are Year R up to?

Year R

Welcome to the new school year and our first newsletter. Thank you so much to everyone for your warm welcome during the home visits. They were all a great success and we enjoyed getting to know everyone as a family.

We are looking forward to an exciting term in Reception and we will make sure we make the most of our indoor and outdoor classroom space. The children are beginning to settle in well and have enjoyed being able to go between both classrooms and the outdoor area.

Thank you to everyone who has completed and returned all of the relevant forms. Hopefully, you are all set up on Tapestry and will begin to see some of the exciting things your child has been doing while at school. If you have any problems or questions about Tapestry, please do not hesitate to get in contact. We also look forward to sharing Tapestry with the children and seeing what they have been up to at home too.

Important Dates

Virtual parent
Interviews

Monday 18th Oc-
tober and Thurs-
day 21st October

15:50—18:50

During the first few weeks the children will be busy getting to know the school routines and learning their way around the classroom so that they are happy and excited to come to school each day. Below is further information about each area of learning that we will be looking at in class. Please remember, if you have any questions, feel free to ask any member of our Early Years Team.

Phonics

We teach children through a systematic synthetic phonics programme to provide children with high-quality teaching of phonics. Our aims are to give all children a solid understanding of phonics which they can build upon as they progress through school. To support your own knowledge of phonics to allow you to support your child at home with reading and practise of their phonics, there will be an information session available to you on Tapestry from **Monday 27th September**. You will be able to watch this information session at a time that suits you as well as pick up an information pack from school. Should you have any questions in regards to phonics, please do not hesitate to ask through our usual channels.

Reminders

All uniform should be labelled with their names. Even book bags and water bottles. There are several children that have the same items which can make getting ready for home time a much longer process.



We begin this term in phonics with looking at children's speaking and listening skills. This is an extremely important phase of our phonics teaching before we introduce the children to new sounds. We will cover:

- Environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- Body percussion
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending and segmenting

After half term, and once children have demonstrated a competency in speaking and listening, we will then begin to introduce children to the letters of the alphabet. The order in which this is taught will be provided in the phonics information pack.

Reading

Reading, communicating through conversation with your child and sharing stories all contribute to supporting your child's development. Not just in literacy but in many other areas of learning. Towards half term, we will begin to send children home with a reading diary and to begin with, wordless picture books. These books are ideal for beginning conversations, making up your own stories and developing vocabulary. Once we have begun to introduce letters to children we will then send books home with words in. Until then, please continue to share stories with your children on a daily basis. Children will shortly have access to our library and they will be bringing home a book each week for you to share together.

Maths

Children are exposed to a maths rich environment from their very first day in school, from patterns in the loose parts area to measuring in the water tray. We encourage children to use mathematical skills in all areas of their child-initiated learning and play. When we begin to teach our maths lessons, the children will start by looking for objects that match and different ways of sorting items into groups. We then go onto comparing amounts and measures, identifying which groups have more and less, which objects are bigger and smaller and which items are heavier and lighter. We will then move on to learning numbers 1-5, how to read and write these numbers, exploring different ways of making them and finding one more and one less.

The [BBC nursery rhymes website](#) has lots of great counting songs as well as [Numberblocks on CBeebies](#) for supporting your child's maths learning at home.

Please feel free to upload to Tapestry any maths games or counting that you do at home. We would love to see!

Christmas Production

This year's Year R Christmas production will be on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th December at 9:30am.

Don't forget to regularly look on our school website for information about upcoming events and photographs of our learning.



This year sees the introduction of the new Early Years framework. We have listed the areas of learning below for ease of reference. We will assess children's understanding of each of these areas of learning during their 'Discovery Learning Time' each day. If you observe your child demonstrating any of these skills, please upload to Tapestry as we consider all stakeholder's views during our termly assessment.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving. These are the **prime areas**:

Communication and Language

- Listening, Attention and Understanding
- Speaking

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Self-Regulation
- Managing Self
- Building Relationships

Physical Development

- Gross Motor Skills
- Fine Motor Skills

We also support children in four specific areas, through which the prime areas listed above are strengthened and also applied. These **specific areas** are:

Literacy

- Comprehension
- Word Reading
- Writing

Mathematics

- Number
- Numerical Pattern

Understanding the World

- Past and Present
- People, Culture and Communities
- The Natural World

Expressive Arts and Design

- Creating with Materials
- Being Imaginative and Expressive



Woodland Walk

Our Woodland Walk sessions are on a **Wednesday morning**. These will begin on Wednesday 29th September. They will be with Mrs Windram and Mrs Atkins. If you have not already, please ensure that your child has a pair of wellington boots that can be kept in school everyday. On these days as well, children can come into school in warm clothing (dark coloured jogging bottoms and leggings are appropriate for this) and waterproofs. They do not need to bring in a change of clothes. A hat, a scarf and gloves are required for the colder months. Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled. The children have lots of fun in the Woodland Walk and you will be able to see each week on Tapestry what they have been learning and doing.