

What are Year R up to?

# Year R

A happy new year from everyone in the Early Years team and welcome to the spring term. Thank you to everyone who gave us gifts and cards before the Christmas holidays—they are all very much appreciated. We hope you all had a wonderful and safe Christmas break.

This newsletter will outline some of the learning that your child will be doing at school as well as things you can do to help support them further at home.

Please remember, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask one of the members of the Early Years team either on Tapestry or via the admin email and we will be more than happy to help.

## Important Dates

Virtual parent interviews

**Monday 14th February  
and Thursday 17th**

**February 3:50pm—  
6:50pm**

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

Our curriculum is built around the EYFS Characteristics of Effective learning. You may have seen them on our Tapestry observations. We wanted to make you aware of them so you are able to encourage these characteristics at home. A lot of them can link seamlessly to our behaviour animals too.

Playing and Exploring	Active Learning	Creating and Thinking Critically
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding out and exploring</li> <li>Playing with what they know</li> <li>Being willing to 'have a go'</li> <li>Being engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being involved and concentrating</li> <li>Keep trying</li> <li>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</li> <li>Being motivated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having their own ideas</li> <li>Making links</li> <li>Choosing ways to do things</li> </ul>

## Tapestry

Tapestry is a very useful resource within the classroom. We upload pictures / videos or observations of your child to help us collect a bigger picture of your child's learning. Thank you to everyone who has uploaded observations from home, during the Christmas holidays and so far this term. It has been great to see what the children have been getting up to and what they are doing to help continue their learning at home/in the classroom. The observations you record on Tapestry are very valuable to us too as we consider all stakeholders' contributions when making assessments. If you have any questions regarding Tapestry please feel free to ask one of the Early Years team.



## Phonics

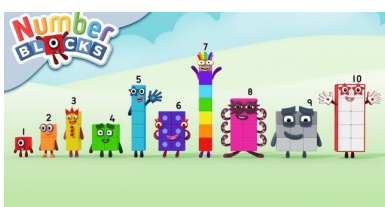
During the autumn term, the children completed Phase 2 of 'Letters and Sounds'. During this phase the children learnt 19 new letters and practised oral blending and segmenting. We will continue to recap Phase 2 and apply it to our learning. This term, as we revisit Phase 2, the children will be taught the 25 new graphemes of Phase 3. If you would like further information about the graphemes being taught at this phase there is further information on our website. <https://www.kingsworthy.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Phonics&pid=65>.

**Gymnastics**  
The children will be doing gymnastics, learning a variety of shapes and movements every Friday.

During this phase, they will also learn letter names, learn to read some more tricky words and also begin to learn to spell some of them. Please continue to read with your child often as this really does help support them in applying their understanding of phonics. In the documents section on Tapestry there are lots of useful resources that you can use and access too.

## Maths

Last term, we had a large focus on recognising the numbers 1-6 and counting out objects to match the correct numeral. The children also began to compare two groups using the words more and fewer. This half term the children will begin by consolidating their knowledge of triangles and circles and then learning about squares and rectangles, identifying similarities and differences between the two. They will then begin to build their confidence in identifying all numbers to 10 and look at adding two numbers together to find the total. While using practical resources, the children will be ordering and comparing objects according to their length, weight and capacity. They will also be learning about the days of the week and what they do at different points in each day. After half term, once the children are confident with their numbers to 10, they will start to compare numbers and investigate all the different ways they can make 10. Quick recall of all number facts within 10 is highly beneficial for children's maths so any support you can give them with this at home is very useful. The children will then learn about 3D shapes and patterns, before ending the term learning to subtract within 10. If you have any questions or would like to know more ways to help your child at home with their maths, please do not hesitate to ask and see our class page for more information on maths in the Early Years.



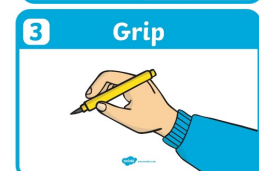
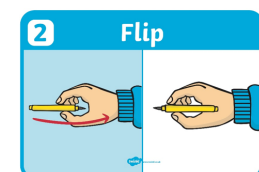
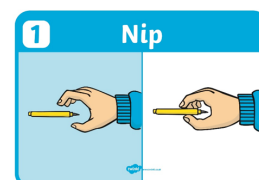
our class page for more information on maths in the Early Years.

## Writing

Now that the children have an understanding of lots of the sounds that we have learnt, they are beginning to apply their knowledge to writing in their Discovery Learning time. We have seen lots of children begin to write labels and even little story books using the sounds that we have learnt. If you are able to, please model writing opportunities at home for them and encourage lots of mark making possibilities.

This term we have planned in lots of writing activities including label writing, practising writing our names without a guide, telling stories and writing recipes. Please upload any writing your child does at home to Tapestry as it really does help our assessments.

A simple rhyme to remember in support of your child's pencil grip is, nip, flip and grip.



## Woodland Walk

As the saying goes...

**“Nature is a tool to get children to experience not just the wider world, but themselves.”**

We can't wait to continue our learning in the Woodland Walk every Wednesday as we have lots of fun activities planned. This term we are going to be exploring ...

- Winter trees - sharing poems, scavenger hunts, thinking of winter adjectives
- Mountains - making clay tree spirits, drawing winter trees
- Hibernation - winter bug hunting, playing the sleeping bear game
- Snow and Ice - making ice ornaments and snow scenes
- Colours - winter colour hunt, colour blending
- Birds - bird watching, making a bird feeder
- Nests - finding food for birds, making birds nests
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We would love it if you could carry on with some outdoor exploration at home and try to go outside as much as you can, even if it's just on the walk to school, here are some ideas for things you can do to continue our love of outdoor learning...

- Splash in puddles
- Collect some leaves/twigs and create pictures
- Finding different colours around the outdoors
- On an icy evening fill various containers with water and small toys and allow to freeze overnight
- Make a list of things you might see on your walk and tick them off as you see them e.g. tree, pine cone, acorn, leaf, puddle, squirrel etc.
- Look for frosty spider webs.
- If we are lucky enough to have snow - build a snowman, make a snow angel, play outside!

After the half term we have been planning some activities and will be looking at Minibeasts, spring, tadpoles and planting.

***"The best and the richest classroom is roofed only by the sky!"***

