



Year R Curriculum Report – Autumn Term A

It has clearly been an unusual start to the year in some ways; however, in many ways it feels like a normal first half term! The children are settling into their classes and forming bonds with their keyworkers, new friendships are in the making and most children are bouncing in every morning with a smile! Please ask your children's key person at any time if there is anything you are unsure about or if you have any worries or concerns about your child's transition.

We will be exploring the topic of Superheroes this half term, as we know that many of your children have a keen interest in this area.

Here is an outline of the key objectives we will be covering in each area of learning:

Communication and Language: This area of learning is key to success across the curriculum and we will spend the first part of the term teaching children to listen and concentrate in their key groups. Throughout the day, we will model speaking in sentences and talking about what the children are doing as they play. A heavy part of children's listening and speaking this half term relates to stories, and we ask that you share a book five times a week with your child and ask them to retell familiar stories or answer simple questions about books that you have read.

Physical Development: The children will experience a wide range of activities this half term through daily "Funky Fingers" sessions, which promote the skills needed to use one handed tools (scissors, paint brushes etc) and eventually form letters. We will focus mainly on gross motor skills (large physical skills) this half term and encourage you to take your child to a local park or woodlands (weather permitting) to practise throwing a ball, climbing on equipment or balancing. At some point during the half term, we will also send home a name card in school script and will be supporting your child to write their name in this way at school. Please ensure that, if you choose to write your child's name with them, you do so in this way rather than in capital letters.

Personal, social and emotional development: This is a key area of learning over the next half term, as children make friends with their new classmates and learn to share and take turns with each other. We will explore different ways to demonstrate friendly behaviour, and practise listening to other people's ideas. We will help your children to be confident to share their own ideas, wants and needs with their key worker and their friends. This half term, we will also be focusing on exploring the behavioural expectations of school so that children understand how to stay safe and look after each other and school property. We are teaching the children to say "Stop, I don't like it" if they are in a situation that they are unhappy with; it would be very useful if you could explore this at home as well!

Literacy: The teaching of reading will focus on exploring rhyme and alliteration, and telling a story using the pictures in the books. We will be encouraging children to recognise their name in the environment, such as during self-registration, in their key group and on their peg label. We will also be encouraging all children to begin to write their name using the correct letter formation. Alongside this, the children are encouraged to draw and write as part of their play activities. At this stage in their learning, it is more important for your children to give meaning to the marks that they are making than it is for you to be able to recognise the words or pictures yourself.

Mathematics: Our mathematical journey will begin by focusing on numbers to 3. Whilst most children are able to recognise the written numbers to 3 and count objects, we will dive deeper and explore three in relation to other numbers, as a measurement, as a time, as sides of a triangle and even how we would make 3p. We will use NumberBlocks and NumberJacks as hooks to mathematical learning and you could explore these at home with your child too. We will also explore patterns and learn to describe them, so keep an eye out for any patterns at home!

Understanding of the world: As we get to know the children, we will talk within our key groups about our families, and the people who are important to us. In RE this term we will be focusing on Celebrations, beginning by thinking about how we celebrate our birthdays. We will think of ways that we are similar and different, and extend this to thinking about our families. The children will have the opportunity to explore natural objects, sorting and classifying them in their own ways. Forest school sessions have started this half term – please ensure that, on your child’s forest school day, they come to school in warm waterproof clothing and bring a change of uniform in case of mud!

Expressive Arts and Design: There are many opportunities to be imaginative and creative in Year R. The children will be supported to draw and paint meaningfully, using shapes to represent objects. They will learn and perform some new songs (including Superheroes Unite and Let’s Be Superheroes, which can both be found on YouTube). Within our role-plays, children will play alongside others who are engaged in the same theme and begin to make stories together.

Home learning challenge:

Please choose one of the following home learning challenges to complete with your children and photograph it or bring it in to show your child’s key worker. This half term, our home learning challenges are:

Chat: Which superpower would you like to have and why?

Play: Create a super vehicle and photograph it.

Read: Read about a real-life superhero (such as a doctor or a police officer) in a non-fiction book.



Reminders:

Family photos

As part of our key worker approach, we celebrate special people in your children’s lives. If you have not already done so, please could you bring in one (or several) photos of your child’s special people to be displayed in their key group area.

Coats

The weather is already turning cold and wet; please ensure that your child brings a coat **every day**, even if the forecast looks clear! Rain and wind will not stop them from playing outside, but your child will miss out on playing with their friends if they do not have the correct clothing.

Superhero request:

At this time of the year, we usually have a visit from a variety of different real superheroes such as police officers, fire fighters and paramedics. Unfortunately, this is not an option this year. If you, or anyone in your family, is a real superhero (this could be one of the above roles or something different!) and would be willing to record a five minute video explaining what your job is and how you keep people safe, please let your child’s class teacher know. We can provide you with a list of simple questions to answer and the children would be very grateful!

A Guide to Setting up at Home

Introduction

Tapestry is the personal online Learning Journey which records photos and observations of your children's learning experiences during their first year in school. You will have secure access (via email address and password) to your children's Learning Journey and, in addition to viewing our contributions, we encourage you to add to it by uploading photos and comments, or commenting on observations made by us. Any contributions made by you will contribute to their overall end of year assessment and, as you know your children best, we value every upload that you can make.

Where do I start?

You should have received an email with login details over the Summer. Most parents have logged in successfully but if you are having problems, or wish to add a second email address, please talk to your child's key worker.

Go to <https://tapestryjournal.com> on your computer, or if you can download a free app via the iTunes or Google Play – just search Tapestry Mobile. Log in using your email address and the password you set.

Viewing my child's Learning Journey

Once logged in, you will see your child's observations on your home screen in a list – selecting any one of these will open up the observation for you to look at. You may add comments in the box at the bottom of the observation if you would like to – and remember that every comment helps!

Adding an entry to my child's Learning Journey

Choose the 'Add Observation' option (or the 'plus' icon on your iPhone/iPad) and add the relevant information in the boxes on screen. Photos and videos may be uploaded by choosing the 'add media' option. When you have saved your observation, you may go back to the home screen at any time by choosing 'home'.

Changing your settings

On a PC

At the top right of your screen you will see your name, and selecting this will give you the option to 'Edit Preferences'. Choose this option and you will be presented with a screen giving you the option to change your email address and password. You also have the option to receive an email whenever a new observation is added to your child's Learning Journey – just tick or untick the relevant box if you would like to change this setting.

On the App

To change your settings on the app, click the 'cog' button on the right-hand side of the application. This enables you to change password and/or email address.

Please do not hesitate to come into school at the end of the day if you would like more assistance with logging in to Tapestry or would like to view your child's learning journey online at school.

Photographs

As part of their online learning journals, we will photograph your child to evidence their learning. Your child may also appear in the background of other children's photos but will not be named unless they are part of the observation. Please contact your child's class teacher if you are unhappy with this.

Let us know how you get on!