

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 have a lot to look forward to this spring term as it is jam packed with events and experiences for the children to enjoy. This newsletter will outline some of the learning that your child will be doing at school and things you can do to help support them at home.

This term we are also lucky to be joined by Abigail Dunn from The University of Winchester on her final school experience. She will be working alongside Mrs Morgan in Rabbits but will be working with all of the children across Year R until 27th March. She joins us on Tuesday 14th January.

As mentioned in the weekly newsletter before Christmas, our 'Stay and Play' sessions will be on Tuesday for this half term and then on Fridays after the February half term. We hope to see lots of you there. Sign up sheets are available outside the classrooms each morning and we ask that you sign up before the morning session to allow us the opportunity to get resources ready if need be.

Please remember, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask one of the members of the Early Years team who will be more than happy to help.

## Important Dates

Parent interviews

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**3:50pm—6:50pm**

Stay and Play

**Tuesdays 1<sup>st</sup> spring half  
term**

**Fridays 2<sup>nd</sup> spring half  
term**

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

Our curriculum is built around the EYFS Characteristics of Effective learning. You may have seen them on some of 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 and during the Christmas holidays. 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. Shortly, you will find a slip in their reading diaries, similar to the one in the autumn term, of an update on the sounds they can recall from Phase 2 and the sounds that they need some further support on at home using the letter cards given out at parents' evening. This term, the children will be revisiting Phase 2 while being 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> During this phase also, they will learn letter names, learn to read some more tricky words and also begin to learn to spell some of them.

## Maths

During the autumn term, we had a large focus on recognising the numbers 1-10 and counting out objects to match the correct numeral. We learnt how to add two numbers together using Numicon and different objects around the classroom and began to compare two groups using the words more and fewer. This half term we will be working with the children to build their confidence in identifying their teen numbers and using these in their learning. While using practical resources, we will be ordering and comparing objects according to their length, weight and capacity. We will also be learning about how to tell the time and looking at what we do at different points in the day along with naming and describing 3D shapes. We will be holding a maths information session for parents on **Tuesday 11th February at 9.00am and 6.00pm** and would love to see you there if you can make it. We will share further information on how we teach maths within school and how you can help at home to further your child's learning and understanding.

**As a reminder, the bullet points below and on the next page outline different skills each child will work on in each of our areas of learning. If these happen at home too, we would love to see it on Tapestry.**

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Learning about the classroom and school routines
- Initiating conversations with others when playing
- Develop good relationships with the adults and children at school.
- Practising taking turns and sharing
- Selecting and using resources with some independence

## Communication and Language

- Listening to stories
- Sharing experiences, recalling personal events and learning to listen to others
- Following simple instructions
- Using language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations
- Using talk to organise, sequence and clarify their thinking, ideas and feelings

## Physical Development

- Engaging in a range of activities that encourage large body movements (gross motor skills)
- Engaging in a range of activities that encourage small body movements (fine motor skills)
- To understand what our bodies need to be 'healthy'

## Literacy

- Joining in with rhymes and simple retelling of familiar stories
- Looking at fiction and non-fiction books
- To recognise, read and write some letter sounds
- Recording ideas through pictures, mark making and where appropriate writing

## Mathematics

- Joining in with number rhymes, stories and songs
- Practising recognising numbers 0-10 or 10-20
- Counting and ordering numbers, 0-10 or 10-20
- Accurately counting sets of objects
- Investigating 2D and 3D shapes

## Understanding the World

- Remembering and talking about significant events in their own experience
- Talking about why things happen and how things work—linked to our bodies
- Using age appropriate computer programs on the interactive whiteboard

## Expressive Arts and Design

- Learn new songs and join in with familiar songs
- Explore and play different instruments
- Explore and create different effects with a range of resources
- Construct with a purpose in mind using a variety of different resources
- Engaging in imaginative role play based on first-hand experiences
- Creating simple representation of events, people and objects

**Gymnastics**  
This term we will continue PE on a Friday morning. The children will be doing gymnastics, learning a variety of shapes and movements.

**Woodland Walk**  
We will continue to visit the Woodland Walk on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure children have suitable raincoats if applicable.

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