

What is Tapestry?

Tapestry is an easy-to-use and secure online learning journal helping staff and families celebrate their children's learning and development.

Tapestry builds a very special record of a child's experiences, development and learning journey through their early years and primary education.

Using photos, videos, and diary entries, a teacher or early years educator, along with the child's parents or carers, and the child themselves if they're ready, 'weaves' the story of the child and how they are growing and developing. The Tapestry platform then works seamlessly to enable these memories to be kept as a permanent record of each child's unique journey.

The communication between staff and parents that Tapestry enables, helps build a shared understanding of how every child can reach their full potential, throughout their time in the EYFS.

Your class teacher will give you all the information on how to log onto Tapestry.



A guide for parents of children starting the EYFS



2023-24



Welcome to Earl Spencer Primary School's Early Years Foundation Stage

Our aim is to provide a safe and caring environment in which every child can flourish. We aim to ensure all children's individual needs, both academic and emotional, are fully met.

We appreciate that starting school is a big step for both you and your child and we want both of you to feel safe and secure with us.

We hope that this brief introduction to the Foundation Stage will provide you with the information that you need, but if you have any other questions please feel free to ask us.

What Will My Child Be Learning?

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is divided into the following areas of learning.

Prime Areas

- ◆ Personal, Social and Emotional Development—*Making relationships, self-confidence and self awareness, managing feelings*
- ◆ Physical Development –*moving and handling, health and self care*
- ◆ Communication and Language— *listening and attention, understanding and speaking*

Specific areas

- ◆ Literacy— *reading and writing*
- ◆ Mathematics— *number and shape*
- ◆ Understanding the World- *people and communities, the world*
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Expressive Arts and Design— *exploring and using media and materials, being imaginative*

Throughout the year, these areas of learning are covered through a variety of topics, such as All About Me. Much emphasis is put on cross- curricular activities so one activity is likely to cover a range of learning.

For example children building with bricks may cooperate together to carry the bricks, the children might negotiate the best place to put them and compare the size of different bricks. Therefore, they may be developing language, mathematical, physical, personal and social competencies through this one activity.

How Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework identifies the essential role of play in your child's development. It is through both child-led play and play guided by an adult that your child will develop confidence and relationships with others. Through play, EYFS practitioners will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication skills.

The EYFS framework identifies three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

- ◆ playing and exploring
- ◆ active learning creating
- ◆ thinking critically

A greater focus on teaching specific skills will occur as your child progresses through their reception year, which will help them to prepare for year one.

How Will I Know How My Child Is Doing?

In the first few weeks of your child starting Reception we do something called a Baseline Assessment. This is where we observe what the child shows us they can do and already know when they first arrive at school. At this point they show us what they are capable of without adults asking questions to probe for further information.

We continually observe your child throughout the year by watching what they are doing and how they are playing and recording this on the Tapestry online platform, this shows us clearly the progress they have made during the year.

We then look at what they have to do next in order to progress further, therefore teaching your child to their specific needs. This is called In the Moment Planning.

Each child in the EYFS has a key person who will work in partnership with you, sharing information about your child. You can also log onto Tapestry to see how your child is doing in school. Your class teacher will tell you how to do this.

EYFS practitioners use their professional knowledge to understand your child's level of development. If they have any concerns about your child's progress, they will discuss these with you.

A second formal assessment on your child will take place in the summer term (at the end of Reception). This is called the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. This will be reported to you alongside their end of year report.