

Year R Autumn 2026

A huge welcome to all of our families! It has been lovely seeing all the children again after the summer and we are really looking forward to helping them settle into school life. We cannot wait to get to know them even more. We would like to thank those of you that have been engaging with Tapestry, as you will be aware this can have a great impact on the children's learning and development. It is also an important way to communicate key messages and correspond with parents. Please check it regularly and tick the like button to acknowledge you have read it. Also, a big thank you for the lovely 'All about Me' booklets, they have been really useful in helping us plan exciting projects and themes for the children to enjoy, as well as getting to know them more quickly! We look forward to a wonderful year!

Our Aspirational Curriculum

Throughout the school year we will be focusing on our 4 aspirations within our Year R curriculum.

1. Grow and care for living things, developing an understanding of healthy choices and sustainability and using what they grow to prepare and enjoy a healthy snack.
2. Fall in love with stories, choosing favourites to retell in imaginative ways using talk, roleplay, music, movement, props and performance.
3. Design, explain and lead play, creating their own games indoors and outdoors, selecting resources independently and articulating simple rules to others.
4. Develop a strong sense of self belonging, recognising what makes them special while working collaboratively to plan and take part in shared celebrations.

Each term we will support the children in taking steps towards this through our milestones. These focus on our love of the school garden, reading and supporting children to collaborate and respect each other. All of which are underpinned by our Berrywood Way values of Ambition, Integrity and Respect.

Over the coming weeks we will be focusing on a variety of texts which encompass our aspirations, part of which will explore an all-time favourite, The Gruffalo! We will be finding out about woodland animals and the change in the seasons as well as listening to stories and rhymes, creating pieces of art, dressing up and role play and having plenty of opportunities to play games, mark make and write. We will also be exploring maths including counting, adding, and ordering numbers. We will be making the most of our fantastic school grounds during our welly walks. Naturally our biggest focus comes under the umbrella of Personal, Social and Emotional Development. We will be showing our skills of sharing and taking turns, being independent when changing ready for PE and being great friends.

This will take us through to our build up to Christmas (surely it's not too early to mention that now?) where the magic of Christmas will come alive through songs, creative activities, investigations with ice, maths, reading, writing opportunities and of course, a Nativity...it's not Christmas until you have seen a Year R Nativity! Further information will be given nearer the time via Tapestry.

Questions and concerns

If you should have any questions or concerns about your child's time in school then please do speak to your class teacher in the first instance, as they are usually best placed to answer most queries. If you require further assistance, please speak to Mrs Hampson (Year Team Leader).



Parental Help!



Some of you have asked (or maybe been convinced) to come into school to help. Please let us know (if you haven't already) if you could help, as the impact of extra support is huge! Let us know days and times that suit you via Tapestry, even if it is just half an hour to an hour every little helps.

How can I help at home?

This is a question we get asked a lot and obviously the specifics are individual to each child but there are some things we can all do. Firstly, pick your time! As the weeks go by the children will become increasingly tired. Our tip would be to keep it fun and active. We will share some ideas on Tapestry. We are excited to introduce our phonic scheme Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) to the children and we will be sending home books for you to share with your child at home. These books will link to the sounds we are learning in school, so any practise will greatly benefit your child. Life is busy and as we have said, children get tired. **If you do nothing else, please read to your child every day or at least 4 times a week.** The impact of this is absolutely immense.

Conversational maths is crucial, whether it's counting food like peas or beans, sharing out toys, talking about the time, counting coins, identifying shapes on your walk to school or recognising numbers in the environment.

We also ask to please ensure your child can do up their own coats, get themselves dressed and undressed, practise eating with a knife and fork and be able to wipe their own bottom. These are key life skills and will all help them to feel more confident, happy and independent in school.

Timetable

Our PE day will be Tuesday. Please make sure kits are in school with **tracksuits included** and **everything** named.

We hope to visit our lovely school library soon. We will let you know when this starts on Tapestry. Please make sure books are kept in your child's book bag so that they can get a new one each week.

Reminders...

Attendance and punctuality are key to boosting your child's educational achievement as well as their confidence and well-being. A quick reminder, the classroom doors will be open at 8:30am and the gates will be closed at 8:45am. Anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late and will need to be signed in at the reception office.

We are a 'Healthy School' so water only in water bottles please. You can find the menu on Tapestry, the school website or up on your child's classroom window. It's a great opportunity to encourage healthy eating. Thank you for your support!

Dates for the diary

6.10.26 Year R Guided Tour

18.11.26/20.11.26 Individual Photographs

**Half Term
26.10.26 – 30.10.26**

10.11.26 Parents' Evening

12.11.26 Parents' Evening

**6.11.26 Berrywood by
Torchlight Celebration**

27.11.26 INSET DAY

4.12.26 Christmas Fayre

**Year R Christmas Nativity
(dates TBC)**

18.12.26 End of term