

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that we write this letter to welcome our new families to the Berrywood community! Our transition programme has been planned to ensure the smoothest possible transition from preschool to school. Rest assured we have adapted our transition routines to fully support all children in receiving the best possible start to school life and their exciting journey ahead. We wish to give you and your child opportunities to become familiar with our school and the Year R team and have all of the information you need about the transition process and how to be "school ready". (Please see the attached leaflet for guidance). This will happen through a variety of methods outlined below.

Tapestry

Many of you will already be familiar with Tapestry as your pre-school may use this software, but for those of you who are new to this, it is an online learning journal which enables staff and parents to share information, observations, special moments and learning experiences both at school and home. Week commencing 22nd May we will be setting up your accounts using the email address given on your application for a school place. Please look out for this correspondence and activate the account when you receive it. Please also check it regularly for updates and feel free to use it to communicate with us.

Getting to Know You Booklet

Also attached to this letter is a 'Getting to know you' booklet which we would love you to complete and return to us as soon as possible but by the end of June at the latest. You can drop this in to the school office, post it to us or scan and email the booklet to office@berrywoodprimary.co.uk. These lovely booklets will help us in getting to know the children and enable us to plan exciting and engaging learning themes for when they start school. Please use the above email address to send us any additional information you feel we may need to know about your child and really importantly, please inform us of the pre-school they are currently registered with.

Welcome Video – Wednesday 24th May

A welcome video will be sent to parents via Tapestry on Wednesday 24th May which will include introductions to some of the Year R team and information about Berrywood and the transition timeline. Details about starting patterns and dates in September and communication methods that parents can use will also be introduced.

Welcome Evening – Wednesday 7th June 6:00 – 7:00 pm

This meeting to welcome you in person will take place in the school hall and will be led by senior leaders and the Year R team. The meeting will start with a short presentation followed by an opportunity for parents to ask questions either publicly or privately.

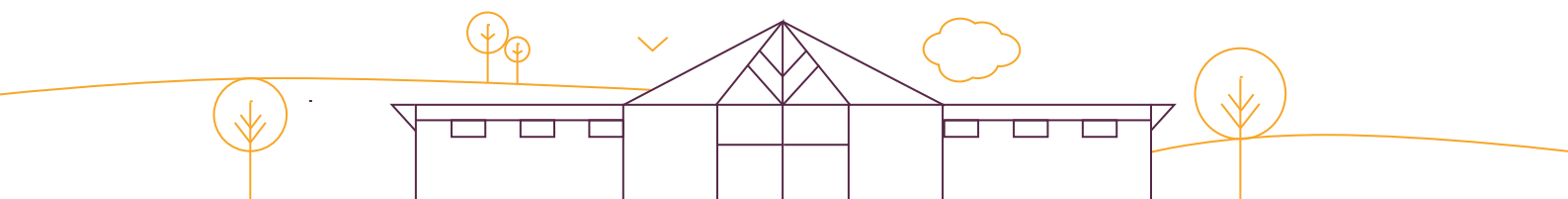
During the meeting one of our uniform providers, Skoolkit, will have mannequins displaying our full school uniform. Also, in previous years there have been leaflets issued that offer a discount. Our alternative uniform provider is My Clothing <https://myclothing.com> this is an online facility and they provide logoed polo shirts, cardigans and sweatshirts.

Getting to Know Us online sessions

The Year R team will be using Tapestry to send you 'Getting to Know Us Sessions' in which the children can meet the teachers in pre-recorded listen and join in style videos. A new video will be uploaded to Tapestry each week on a Friday for three school weeks, starting from Friday 26th May 2023 so please look out for these and share them with your child/ren. We would love you to respond on Tapestry so we can start building relationships with you and the children.

Stay and Play

The first opportunity to visit the setting with your child will take place on either Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th or Thursday 15th June. You will be invited to attend one of these sessions with your child from 3:30pm - 4:15pm in room 11 which is Snowdrops classroom. This is an opportunity for your child to play in their new environment and meet new faces.





Settling in Sessions

These sessions take place on either Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st or Thursday 22nd June 2023 and allow the children to attend without parents. They will run from 3:30pm – 4.15pm. You will be notified via email / Tapestry which day your child has been allocated and the location. At the end of the session, you will receive a letter letting you know your child's allocated teacher for September.

Move Up Day

The final afternoon transition session is on Thursday 29th June at 1:45pm – 2:45pm. This session will be in their new classroom with their new teachers and classmates!

Pre-school Visits

We are really hoping that our Year R staff will be able to visit your child's pre-school in person again this year. We work closely with pre-schools to ensure a smooth transition. Where possible we meet the children in their familiar settings to play and find out what makes them special.

If you require the Getting to Me Booklet, or the Ready Steady School Leaflet in a hard copy format, these will be available at the welcome evening.

To provide you with a clearer picture of what is happening over the coming weeks, here is a timeline for your reference...

Wednesday 24th May – Welcome Video
please see Tapestry

Friday 26th May- Tapestry Introduction Videos
Getting to Know Us – Video One

Wednesday 7th June - Welcome Evening
6:00-7:00pm school hall

Friday 9th June - Tapestry Introduction Videos
Getting to Know Us – Video Two

Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th June –Stay and Play
3:30-4:15pm room 11

Children attend one of three short sessions this week with parents. You will receive an email/ Tapestry notification with your child's days.

Friday 16th June - Tapestry Introduction Videos
Getting to Know Us – Video Three

Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st June and Thursday 22nd June – Settling in Sessions
3:45-4:30pm

Children attend one of three short sessions this week, without parents. You will be given a letter at the end of this session informing you of who your child's teacher will be in September.

Thursday 29th June 2023 – Move Up Day
The children will visit their new classrooms.

We are really look forward to meeting you. In the meantime, we are looking forward to finding out all about you from your special booklets. Our absolute top priority will be helping the children to settle happily as soon as possible.

Kindest regards,

The Year R Team and
The Senior Leadership Team