

# Year R Autumn 2023



A huge welcome to all of our families! We are so pleased with how the children enjoyed their first visits and we are really looking forward to helping them settle into school life. We cannot wait to get to know them. 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 and also forms part of our assessments. 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!

## Projects

We will be focusing on an all-time favourite with the children; The Gruffalo and many other Julia Donaldson books over the coming weeks. This will involve: lots of stories, art, role play, dressing up as well as opportunities for mark making / writing and lots of maths from counting, adding, dividing, and shape hunts. Naturally our biggest focus comes under the umbrella of Personal, Social and Emotional Development but we wanted to give you a flavour of the other areas on offer. We are also planning a mini focus on Raymond Briggs and are hoping to take the children on a trip to the Berry Theatre to watch 'Father Christmas' in December. This will be a very exciting first trip for the children! In the event of a bad weather forecast, we ask that you provide the children with wet weather gear and potentially a change of clothes. We will advise nearer the time on Tapestry.

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 lots of songs, creative activities, investigations with ice, lots of maths, reading, writing opportunities and of course, a nativity...it's not Christmas until you have seen a Year R nativity.

## Timetable

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

Our library day will be on a Thursday. Please make sure books are in your child's book bag so that they can get a new one each week. We will let you know when this starts on Tapestry.



## Parental Help!



Some of you have asked (or maybe been convinced) to come into school to help. We are just letting the children settle in and we will create a timetable of extra support and provision to start after half term. Let us know if you haven't already, if you could help as the impact of extra support is huge!

## 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 Fisher (Year Team Leader).

## 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 so reading, sound cards and so on can wait if your child is simply too tired. We will send 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.** The impact of this is absolutely immense.

Conversational maths is crucial, whether it's counting food, 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 if you could ensure your child can do up their own coats, practise eating with a knife and fork and be able to wipe their own bottom. This will all help them to feel more confident and independent in school.

**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 locked at 8:45am. Anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late. Please use this opportunity to encourage healthy eating. We are a 'Healthy School' so water only in water bottles, healthy lunch boxes and you're welcome to bring a fruit platter with your child if you wish to share a tasty treat for their birthday...the children love these! Thank you for your support!



## Up and Coming Events..

10.10.23 Year R Guided Tour

13.10.23 INSET DAY

17.10.23 Parents' Evenings

18.10.23 Market Day

19.10.23 Parents' Evenings

Half Term

23.10.23 – 27.10.23

2.11.23 Berrywood by Torchlight Celebration

24.11.23 INSET DAY

7.12.23 (TBC) The Berry Theatre

8.12.23 Christmas Fayre

11.12.23 The Christmas Nativity

15.12.23 Visit to Santa at station & Optional Early Finish