

Dear Parents and Carers,

From September 2021 the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) was updated. The EYFS is a legal document that we are required to follow, below is an insight to how we Observe, Assess and Plan for our children at preschool with regards to the EYFS.

(If you would like to see a full list of the changes, please feel free to email me: rebecca.stgeorgepreschool@hotmail.com)

Tapestry

This is the online journal we use to record some of the learning that happens at preschool. The first few weeks of preschool we get to know each child, settling them in and introducing the rules and routines. During these weeks we add observations with snippets of your child's time here.

After this each child will have a termly focus week, where you will receive several observations with a short summary from all the practitioners that work with your child.

-After each child's focus week there is an opportunity for you to speak to your child's key worker via zoom.

You will receive WOW observations throughout the year, practitioners use these to record something your child has done independently or for the first time.

"Assessment should not entail prolonged breaks from interaction with children, nor require excessive paperwork." EYFS 2021

The number of observations we do and how we record them reflect our effort to spend as little time away from the children.

In the moment planning

Children have a natural desire to learn, explore and question in their play. Our environment enables child-initiated play, allowing us to capture moments of engagement using careful observation. When a child shows an interest in an activity which can be built upon practitioners seize the opportunity, we call these "teachable moments". These happen all the time but are captured on tapestry for you to see during your child's **focus week**.

Assessment

"When assessing whether an individual child is at the expected level of development, practitioners should draw on their knowledge of the child and their own expert professional judgement and should not be required to prove this through collection of physical evidence."
- EYFS 2021

With this in mind, we will be using our inset days as an opportunity for all staff to be involved in the assessment of children. This means we are able to discuss children as a team creating a better idea of where each child is on their learning journey. When assessing each child we look at the three prime areas (Personal, social, emotional development,

Communication and Language, and Physical development) and the four specific areas (literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world and Expressive arts and design).

We are beginning to use **Birth to 5 matters** document as our non-statutory guidance. This document is written and developed by professionals within the sector, it provides us with guidance of how children learn during each stage of their development. Supporting us with our assessment process and other statutory requirements.

What we will be working on

Promoting oral hygiene is now a requirement of the EYFS, so we will be working on ways to promote this with our children and families. We are currently talking to our local dental practice with regards to training and information sharing.

The focus has increased around how children manage their own feelings and emotions, within personal, social and emotional development. Although this was something we already helped our children with we will be looking at ways we can further support them.

If you would like any further information, I would be happy to help

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