



13 July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Building on the previous updates I write to further update you on progress we have made following our Ofsted inspection. This report does not duplicate all developments previously reported so please check back on recent communications if you need more details.

We are now just a fortnight from the 12 week mark since our inspection, this being the earliest date from which we would expect to receive our follow up inspection. We are just about running to plan, all changes are in but many still being bedding down, and we are therefore just about ready for them to return. That said, if they were to give us a couple more weeks before they turn up so we can make some of the changes more second nature to us, then that would be handy!! The practitioners and management team have achieved a huge amount in the last 10 weeks and I am proud both of them, and the transformation that the nursery is going through.

I would also like to thank parents for their continuing support. The Speed Survey we did was very encouraging with a third of all families responding, and of which:

- 100% stated we had clearly explained the areas of improvement identified in the Ofsted report,
- 100% stated we had kept you informed about what we have done in a transparent and timely manner, and
- 98.6% stated that if they had a question or a concern they would feel comfortable raising it with one of the management team

Our personal ethos which we promote throughout Rainbow has always been to be transparent and honest and we are very pleased you see this in our behaviours. Thank you.

Specific developments in the last three weeks:

- The “Look What I Will Be Learning At Rainbow Nursery This Month” sheets have mostly gone home and are mostly also available on Tapestry. Thank you to those parents who have already filled in the “What I’ve Been Doing At Home” section, and to those who are now using Tapestry instead to inform us about what your child is doing when not in the setting. This is really valuable as it feeds directly into the practitioner’s ongoing planning, where applicable. Clearly the current process is a rather painful fusion of old and new: as we bring Tapestry fully online, we are having to continue in the interim with paper versions just in case Ofsted visit sooner rather than later. This will normalise over the coming few weeks and Tapestry will be our solution to deliver a richer, more dynamic interchange of information between parents, Rainbow, and other settings and carers.

- Area managers are formally observing practice in their rooms, and auditing planning. They are also observing practice in one room from another area of the nursery other than their own each week. The results of these observations are being reviewed at a weekly moderation meeting facilitated by the nursery manager. This is to ensure consistency across the nursery and to promote the spreading of best practice.
- North Yorkshire officers have also undertaken room observations taken with positive feedback received. Any additional improvements suggested have been fed back.

On Tapestry itself...

- As of today we have wifi enabled the nursery, deployed 2 or more tablets in all main nursery care rooms, and all main nursery children are set up on the system.
- We have a further after hours staff training session specifically on Tapestry next week. We will be focusing on how the tool can be best utilised to support a child's learning through a constant loop of Observation, Assessment, and Planning.
- Observations are growing rapidly in both quality and quantity as practitioners become more familiar with the tool and how to use it. Week on week observations are growing by over 50% and anecdotally we are capturing these vital snapshots of your child's development 10-20 times more often than we were, without sacrificing quality.
- 15% of children have active parents set up, though that number is literally increasing as I type as today we sent out invitations to Tapestry to another 210 parents. This is the second of four tranches we are doing over this two week period.
- We have now opened up Tapestry registration to additional carers and significant individuals in a child's life such as grandparents, and can now allow access (with your approval) to other childcare settings your child may attend. This will allow broader and deeper communication between all parties involved in your child's learning and development.

Two of our NYCC officers were onsite this week and both gave us very positive feedback on the changes that they have seen. We have completed all the areas covered on their support plan but have invited them to feel free to drop in unannounced at any time, in the same way our friends at Ofsted will.

While I hesitate to say we are Ofsted Ready, the practitioners and management team have delivered a huge amount of positive change at Rainbow in the last 10 weeks. Where significant change is undertaken in a short period there is always potential for problems and we appreciate your patience with us while we work out the gremlins. We will spend the next couple of weeks bedding in the changes and tweaking practice as necessary. We still hope to get the access to Tapestry to all parents by the end of July, and as such it seems appropriate to diarise our next update to you for the Friday 3rd August.

In the meantime, as ever, should you wish to discuss anything about this with us please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Karl and Harriet Shields
Directors