



Dear Parents/Carers

Following our letter at the end of May and the progress report on the 8th June, we wanted to write to further update you on progress we have made following our Ofsted inspection. This report does not duplicate developments previously reported so please check back on recent communications if you need more details.

A quick follow up first of all on the question about when we can expect Ofsted back. Our NYCC officer has advised us that despite Ofsted's resourcing issues they are bound to the 6 month re-inspection timetable. This would mean that will be re-inspected before the 3rd November - this is good news. Our development plan remains to be complete all internal changes within a fortnight from now with further bedding in time to take us to be Ofsted Ready by the 3rd August.

Developments in the last two weeks:

- Parent led registration is now in place across the whole nursery and continues to work well. If you have any feedback on the registration process please get in touch. Regular spot checks are taking place and accuracy is excellent.
- We have hosted our North Yorkshire advisors on a number of occasions most recently for an audit of policies and procedures. There were no material findings arising from this audit.
- On Tuesday we held our parent drop in session - thank you to those parents who attended, and for the feedback and support offered. As ever, should you have general or personal feedback or concerns do not hesitate to contact any of the area managers, the nursery manager, or Mr and Mrs Shields.
- On Wednesday our NYCC Advisor facilitated another after hours training session, this time on promoting high quality engagement between practitioners and the children in their care. The high turnout of practitioners at the 2 hour training session, for some coming on the end of a long working day, is testament to their professionalism and dedication and we are enormously grateful to them for this.
- Next week sees the introduction of the "Look What I've Been Learning At Rainbow" sheets start to go home. This is a week behind our schedule but we have been concentrating our attentions on supporting practitioners in getting weekly planning bedded in and effective. It would be enormously helpful to us and your child if you could fill in and return the "What I've Been Doing At Home" section as this will then feed into the practitioners ongoing planning. This is a stop-gap measure as we anticipate Tapestry will change this to-and-fro information exchange from a periodic static one to an ongoing dynamic one.

- Over the last week the nursery manager and the area managers have been looking at the observations and next steps planning that the room practitioners complete on a daily basis. The managers have agreed some quality assurance checks to ensure that there is consistency throughout the nursery with this documentation. Our North Yorkshire Advisor will also be observing the area managers in this QA activity in the coming two weeks to help support the area managers and identify any training requirements both in the managers and their practitioner teams.
- The managers will be spending time within the nursery rooms observing the practitioners and children, the managers will do this within their own area's but will also observe other areas of the nursery, again this is to ensure consistency in our monitoring processes, and the capturing and promoting of best practice.
- To deal reasonably with the requirement for staff to wash their hands after each time a child's nose is blown, while outside and away from an accessible sink, we have positioned antibacterial hand-gel dispensers in a number of strategic locations around the outside areas of the site.

Tapestry:

- In the past fortnight we have continued our trial of Tapestry, the online interactive learning journal. It's design has clearly been heavily influenced by EYFS professionals, and targeted at EYFS professionals, and so on the basis of the results of the albeit necessarily brief trial, we have taken the decision to roll it out nursery wide for ages up to and including transition into primary school.
- Tapestry will give us a vehicle to improve in three areas Ofsted flagged as needing improvement in these being; the quality and quantity of observations on children's development, how these feed into our short term activity planning, and involving parents more in their child's learning. As a parent wrote to me "a tool is of course only a tool, but if adopted well it is a good one" - it is not the whole solution to our improvements in those areas but it will make a significant positive contribution.
- Tapestry is cloud based, meaning we do not need to store data on site. Importantly, please be assured that the system is private and secure. As often seen in the media, nothing is impenetrable, however Tapestry is used by over 15,000 settings in the UK, including many local authority controlled schools that operate under quite high security standards, and it is GDPR compliant. We are not dancing on the cutting edge here - Tapestry is decidedly mainstream. If you have specific questions about data security and privacy please let us know and we will raise them with the Tapestry support team.
- In the rooms Tapestry is being delivered through Android tablets. These tablets are locked down to limited applications and usage monitored to protect children and practitioners. Parent use can be through android or iOS app, or through a more fully featured browser version, which work well on phone or tablet as well as PC based.
- I'm grateful to Red Room, Day Nursery 2, and Preschool 2 who have been trialing the tablets over this 2 week period, and we are pleased to confirm that as Monday we have at least a single tablet in each room. We anticipate 2-5 tablets per room will be required in time depending on a number of factors.
- We will be starting parent trials in the coming week with a small number of parents from the three rooms above initially, being asked to participate.

- A short note on terminology; Tapestry calls everything an observation. However our practitioners are using Tapestry to capture different things, for different audiences. So for example it may be used simply as a camera to capture a moment. Once a child is tagged in the picture, and the picture approved, it will appear and stay in your child's online learning journey. Snippets of information about things your child did, or said, can be captured and shared. Observations can be linked to the EYFS framework and the as an indication, over two weeks, three rooms captured over 200 separate observations on the children in those rooms. We would estimate this to be at least a 50% increase driven of course partly by the "novelty factor", but also because capturing the observations is fast, efficient, timely, and can be linked into the EYFS framework there and then. To ensure we do not forsake quality for quantity all observations require area manager approval and practitioners will receive feedback from their manager on how to improve their observations as required.
- The parent access you will get will allow you not just to see everything the practitioners have captured, but you can also capture your own moments at home and securely share them back. This two way communication is invaluable to us and will support your child's learning and inform our planning.
- Should you wish, you can also authorise us to allow non-parent access to other professionals or settings involved in your child's education.
- In time we will also move to using the Tapestry care diary which allows easy capturing of day to day personal care tasks such as nappy changes, sleep times, bottles, and what and how much was ate. This will take a lot of paper record admin out of the rooms and allow practitioners to concentrate more on their core responsibility, supporting and nurturing your children.

We firmly believe that the changes we have made and will continue to make are making a huge improvement to this nursery. We are pushing change at a rapid rate and that can cause problems. We are hugely grateful to the practitioner team for their attitude and positivity throughout this process. Please bear with us as we make these changes, and as we push through the rollout of Tapestry. We hope to get the access to all parents by the end of July. The next written update to parents will be with you on Friday 13th July. In the meantime 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