



3 August 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

This is our latest post Ofsted update and should be read in conjunction with previous ones detailing changes in various areas. You will be pleased to learn it's a shorter update as a result of the progress we have made. You will be less pleased to learn that there is another google form requiring your attention... sorry!

We are now within the zone that we can expect to be re-inspected by Ofsted and we are now able to report to you we are ready for them. This has been the result of a lot of hard work by the management and practitioner team and I would like to publicly thank them for their efforts. As with all significant change there is still bedding in to do to make the changes we have made second nature but all improvements that were required, and more, are in place. We are hopeful that as it's August and many settings are closed for the school summer holidays there is more chance we will be inspected sooner rather than later. At the moment, nothing in this nursery moves faster than our manager Lisa Watson, when the reception doorbell rings at 8am! If they don't re-inspect over the summer holidays the latest date is the 3rd October.

There are currently three areas to update you: registers, Tapestry, and parent permissions.

Registers

Please could I remind you of the importance of the "ANY MEDICATION ADMINISTERED? (Y/N)" column on the daily sign in registers. This is important information for us to better inform how we look after your child should they become ill during the day. It is also there as a prompt for you to tell us of any ongoing medication or medication that you have administered overnight or that morning. Please help us to help your child in the event of illness by getting into the habit of completing the Y or N in the column, and if Y briefing the practitioner.

Tapestry

Our new online learning journal is not yet up to full speed but it is already significantly improving the teaching and learning at Rainbow in a number of ways:

- The frequency of observations made on children's development has increased by over 500% percent on average pre-Ofsted levels. Observations are richer, and are captured "close to the moment" as opposed to written a day or two later.
- Broader and deeper engagement with parents, your comments feed straight into our planning, you know what's happening in nursery, and we know what's happening at home.
- A vehicle to readily share a child's learning journey and current next steps with other significant carers and settings in a child's learning life. We already have a number of grandparents and childminders enrolled!

Some rooms are better established than others and this is resulting in too much variability in the quantity and quality of observations. To address this we are introducing Tapestry Champions internally and are freeing up some of their time to train the practitioners in the rooms that need a bit of help. I know I say it a lot, but please bear with us for the next couple of weeks or so, our practitioners had a lot of change to deal with in a short period of time and some are more comfortable with technology than others.

We met our end of July target and all parents should by now have received their Tapestry enrolment email. If you haven't let me know. Hotmail accounts in particular seem to have eaten the registration emails. As I write 78% of children enrolled in the main nursery have a parent who has activated their Tapestry account, and thank you to those parents who have uploaded some wonderful captured moments at home or on days out. It all helps us to better engage with your child and influences how we plan for their learning.

Finally on Tapestry, a short note on group observations. Settings are divided on whether they block or allow observations on groups of children. We believe that group work and friendships are part of life at nursery and are part of growing up. We have given our practitioners guidance on group observations, but allowing them at all will result in images of your child appearing in the learning journals of other children in your child's room and friendship groups. We believe on balance the benefits of group observations outweigh the privacy concerns and at enrolment the vast majority of parents already give approval for their child to appear in other children's learning journals which would suggest you agree. We do ask however that all parents treat media of other children appearing on their child's learning journey, with the respect they would expect other parents to treat media of your child appearing on theirs, and you do not share such media on any public forums.

Parent Permissions

As you are aware in the immediate aftermath of the inspection we updated our medical permissions. The introduction of Tapestry as well as the new data protection legislation has meant that we needed to review our policies and permissions relating to capturing images and videos of your child. As we have parents who have been with us for a number of years, and parents who have been with us for a number of days, we have been advised to do a single update of the permissions we hold for all parents. Not all permissions are applicable to all age groups but a single list keeps things simple and will reduce the number of times we need you to update and re-confirm with us. There is therefore I'm afraid the inevitable Google form. We will be requesting all parents complete this so why not get it over with now?!

<https://goo.gl/forms/dlqkhaql7SVzbwXL2>

Thank you for your support and patience through this process. Rainbow is a better nursery for the inspection and the improvements it acted as a catalyst for, and we hope you see this. Our next update will be Friday 7th September unless Ofsted have visited in which case it will be sooner! 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