



Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Jackie Chambers
Deputy: Mr Jon Gambell
Chair of Governors: Mrs Rebecca Emson



Nurtured We Flourish

☎ 01622 859261

Email: office@harrietsham.kent.sch.uk

Website: www.harrietsham.kent.sch.uk

Tapestry – An Online Learning Journal

Dear Families,

In September we will be using an online system of recording your child's learning in Reception, called 'Tapestry'. Your child's class teacher will be responsible for all observations and assessments made of your child. These will be uploaded for you to share with your child at home.

Tapestry is a website which can be accessed on a computer or laptop, and also on any Apple or Android device, such as a tablet or smart phone. We have chosen this company because they offer a secure and exciting way of keeping track of your child's development and their time with us. We have received great feedback for Tapestry in the past.

Instead of using books to record all learning, we will be able to instantly upload photos, videos and observations of your children. You are then emailed to alert you that something new has been added to your child's Learning Journal and can log on and view what your child has been up to at school. A massive advantage of this system is that you can instantly add your own comments to entries, and can show your child's online book to members of the family. Please note that other parents will not be able to view your comments, unless it is on a group observation.

Tapestry Online Learning Journal allows us to share:

- Information Updates/Whole School Messages
- Your child's learning, attainment and next steps
- How your child learns (through the Characteristics of Effective Learning). This will tell us what type of learner your child is; do they take risks? Do they engage in new experiences? Will they persist with an activity or challenge? This can help us further support your child in school and plan activities for those next steps.
- Quick updates on how your child is getting on at school. Especially during those first few weeks in school, a quick photo/message to say that your child has settled quickly will hopefully reassure you, rather than having to wait all day until pick up!
- Your child's care diary, if they require additional support or have a toileting accident in school.
- The 'Week's Learning' and a 'Suggested Activity' to complete at home, ready to share with the rest of the class in Show and Tell the following week.

This year will be asking parents to:

- Document your child's weekly reading records via Tapestry.
- Upload photos/comments and 'Wow' moments at home e.g. riding their bike without stabilisers, or learning to swim for example.
- Respond to observations by 'liking' and commenting on them. We endeavour to have positive relationships with all of our parents, as well as your children.
- Use our online Messaging service via Tapestry to voice concerns or address queries you may have.

This is really important to us. We have an open door policy whereby we will always speak to parents should you have concerns. However, we ask that you please do not liaise with





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other parents via social media or in Whatsapp groups, as this can cause further upset or worry for other parents, and you may receive the wrong information. Thank you.

- Take part in the weekly 'Suggested Activity' at home, where possible. We do not set rigid "Homework" in Year R, and understand that it is often difficult for parents to fit this in with busy lifestyles. However, the suggested activity will be linked to what children have been learning at school, and will be an opportunity for them to share their own ideas and be confident to speak in front of a class during Show and Tell sessions.

The safeguarding of our children is very important to us. Everything that is added to Tapestry will be added to our school account and can only be viewed by school staff that use the system, and also yourself, using your own log on. You will only have access to your child's learning journey, which cannot be seen by other parents. Also, it is crucial that you do not share photos or videos from your child's journey on social media or through other online platforms. Any incidents where this confidentiality is broken will be dealt with very seriously and will result in your access to the system being withdrawn.

On the back of this letter you will find some Frequently Asked Questions about the system. I would also like to signpost you to Tapestry's website where you will find lots of information and videos to support you: <http://eyfs.info/tapestry-info/introduction>

Attached to this letter is a permission and information slip to allow us to set up a Tapestry account for your child. Please sign and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Your account will be activated in September.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Mrs Coral Smith
EYFS Leader and Ducklings Class Teacher





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Frequently Asked Questions

Why use an online system?

Handwriting observations, printing out photos, cutting out and sticking all of these into a paper book is very time consuming. By taking photos and videos that can be instantly uploaded this increases the time that staff can spend with your children, observing and supporting their learning.

We were also impressed with the way in which parents can instantly see what their child has been up to and can also share it with family members such as grandparents.

How do I get onto the system?

If you consent to us using Tapestry for your child, school will set up an account for you and provide you with log on details.

Tapestry can be accessed online at: <http://eyfs.info/tapestry-info/introduction>

It is available as a free app from the Apple Store and also on Android devices.

We will ask you to provide us with an email address so that we can set you up a personal account. This will be a secure way of logging in, and you will only be able to see your own child's learning, and important messages from the school. It is important to visit the app daily in order to familiarise yourself with regular updates from the school.

I don't have a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. How can I access Tapestry?

If you are unable to access the Internet on any device at home, then you will still be able to access your child's learning during Parents Evenings where we will provide you with access to your child's account and support you to use it if needed.

I am not very confident with computers or the Internet. How can I access Tapestry?

One of the reasons for us choosing Tapestry was ease of use. It is a very easy system to use, but should you have any problems, a member of the Early Years Team will be happy to support you. We will be giving you a short demonstration on how to use Tapestry when your child comes to school for their second Stay and Play session.

Why do you need my email address?

Your email address is required in order to set you up with access to your child's account. It is to ensure security on the site and also so that we can email you when a new entry has been added for your child.





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Tapestry – An Online Learning Journal **Permission Slip**

Child's Name: _____

Please circle:

- I do/ do not give permission for an online Tapestry Learning Journey to be created and maintained for my child.
- I do/ do not give permission for my child's photo to appear in any group photos used in Learning Journeys. These may be included in other children's learning journeys.
- I agree to uphold the school's request not to electronically share (by social media or other platforms) or upload any part of my child's Learning Journey, including photographs.
- I agree to keep my log in details secure.
- I agree to school staff working on their Learning Journey at home and in line with the Staff Policy and user agreement.





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Tapestry – Activation Set Up

The email address/addresses I wish to use for my Tapestry account is/are:

Name of Parent/s/ Carer/s _____

Relationship to Child _____

The 10 digit password I wish to use for my Tapestry account is: (please include numbers/upper and lower case)

The 4 digit pin I wish to use for my Tapestry account is:

Parent/Carer signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return this slip to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

