

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas break, and 2020 has got off to a wonderful start for all of you. Spring term has already been full of fun for everyone in Early Years and we look forward to the rest of this half term.

Topic

In the first half of the Spring term we will be focusing on our new topic called 'The Enchanted Forest'. As part of this topic we will be looking at well-known stories such as the 'Gruffalo', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children are already exploring our new role play areas and we are sure they will enjoy this exciting topic. We have also taken the opportunity to have a closer look at Chinese New Year. The children have learnt about the traditions linked to this celebration and have even had a chance to experience some for themselves.

Homework

Thank you to those of you who helped your child to create such wonderful pieces of homework over the holiday. The children have enjoyed sharing their work with their class and they have been used to create a wonderful display too!

Tapestry

The EYFS team have been enjoying getting to grips with Tapestry and feel that it is a great opportunity to create stronger links between school and home. We hope you feel the same way as this was our primary reason for changing to this particular online system. At school we use Tapestry to record key moments in your child's week. We want to encourage all parents to log on and view and comment on these moments. We are also really keen to see observations that you have created and uploaded. You can add these through your devices at home. We understand that some of you may feel unsure about uploading but please give it a go as you can't get it wrong and it is fantastic to see what the children are learning and experiencing outside of school. Please ask a member of staff if you would like any help with this.

We are also using Tapestry to send home challenges so please look out for observations called Challenge or At Home Learning. We believe that engaging with these tasks can only help your child and will have a significant impact for all. Challenges are usually simple and easy to complete and you can upload examples to your child's online learning journal through Tapestry. You may sometimes receive these through a slightly different account linked to the class teacher as this allows you to view photos. However, please upload responses directly to your own child's journal.

We understand that there is a lot to digest so we would like to invite you to a Tapestry workshop to explain a little more about it and offer support and guidance on both how and what to upload. Look out for more information on this very soon.

Key Workers

Like all EYFS settings we are required to have key workers. We understand that in a nursery setting a key worker is more responsible for your child and their learning journey, however, in Reception it is a little different. It may be that a keyworker is responsible for uploading observations or completing some tasks with children but ultimately it is the class teacher that is responsible for all children and their progress. So please do continue to chat and share with the class teacher regardless. If you are interested in your child's key worker then these are displayed in each cloakroom.

Book Bags

We would just like to remind you that it is important that children bring in their book bags and that they contain their yellow reading diary, phonics homework books and any reading books that have been lent to you by the school. This means we can update homework weekly and regularly change reading books. We are particularly struggling to find appropriately banded phonic reading books to lend to your children and would appreciate it if these books could stay in bags as it is important that every child has the right kind of book to support them in their learning. If books could be kept in the plastic wallets too then we won't lose any to water bottles either. We appreciate your continued support with this.

Parent Helpers

This term we are looking to introduce parent helpers. This is where parents would regularly join us in Early Years to primarily listen to the children read. Children benefit greatly from reading regularly and we would like to encourage the children to read even more, we just need your help to make this happen! So if you think you could commit to an afternoon a week then we would love to welcome you in to our unit. If you think this is something you would be interested in then please let the class teacher know. Depending on the level of interest we can then arrange days and times with you.

EYFS Outside Learning Environment

Here at Eastbrook, we feel very passionate about creating engaging, inspiring and purposeful learning environments for the children. In Early Years we are continuously striving to improve both our indoor and outdoor learning environments and we have made lots of changes and improvements over the last few years. However, our job is never done! We are still hoping to make further improvements, particularly, to the outside area. In order to do this we need supplies and possibly a little bit of help from some of you. If any of you have access to items listed below and would be able to donate them to the school we would be very grateful.

Useful items:

Tyres

Wooden pallets, sheets, logs etc.

Large cable reels/drums

Tarp or covers

If you think that you might have some useful items to donate to the school then please contact Natasha in the office. If you are unsure whether any items you have may be useful then please talk to a member of the EYFS team. We really would be very appreciative of any support that you may be able to offer us.

Diary Dates

Bookworm Mornings	Every Thursday
Tapestry Workshop	Tuesday 11 th February
Film Night	7 th February
Forest School	RMP - Wednesday 26 th February REB - Thursday 27 th February

Just a reminder, children spend a lot of time learning in our outdoor area so please ensure that suitable clothing is worn such as tights, warm jackets as well as hats, scarves and gloves.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Early Years Team. Although we may not always be able to speak to you in depth at the beginning or end of the day, you can make an appointment to see any member of the EYFS teaching staff after school to discuss any points you wish to raise.

Warm regards,
The Early Years Team