



“Tapestry “– An Online Learning Journal

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Horsted Keynes Preschool we use an online learning journal system designed by the Early Years Foundation Forum called “Tapestry”.

Tapestry is a system which can be accessed on a computer or laptop, and on any Apple or Android device such as a tablet or smart phone. We use Tapestry because it is a secure and exciting way of keeping track of your child’s development and their time with us. This system is hosted in the UK on secure servers. These servers conform to very high environmental standards and are pro-actively managed 24 hours a day. Each Tapestry account has its own database and the code itself is developed using hack-resistant techniques.

We use Tapestry to gather and record information, observations and photos for each child in our setting. This information helps us to assess the children’s learning and development and plan appropriate for each child. Instead of using the old-style paper book way of recording, we now, with the use of iPads, can instantly produce the information we require to support each child. Each observation we make will be done directly onto the mobile app and linked into your child’s personal profile. These observations can include notes, photographs and EYFS assessments, characteristics of learning and videos.

You are then emailed to alert you that something new has been added to your child’s Learning Journal and you can log on and view what your child has been achieving at Preschool. 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 who would not usually be able to attend ‘stay and play’ sessions at Preschool.

The safeguarding of our children is very important to us. Everything that is added to Tapestry will be added to our Preschool account and can only be viewed by Preschool staff that use the system, and by yourself, using your own log on details. You will only have access to your child’s own record and this cannot be seen by other parents. Also, it is crucial that you do not share photos or videos from your child’s record 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this confidentiality is broken will be dealt with very seriously and will result in your access to the system being withdrawn. Our registration forms contain all the necessary Tapestry permissions that we require you to sign before your account can be activated.

Once your child is ready to leave or move on to their next setting, we will convert their record to a .PDF and either email you or transfer to a USB stick if you would like to provide one.

We are very excited about using this system in Preschool and would like you to find out more about it too. At the bottom of this letter you will find some Frequently Asked Questions about the system. I would also like to suggest you look at the Tapestry website where you will find lots of information and videos: <http://eyfs.info/tapestry-info/introduction>

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

Kind regards
Clare Humphreys,
Manager.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why use an online system?

Hand writing 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, 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, Preschool 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 book.

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 book during the Preschool day 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 team will be happy to support you.

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.