

Asalaamu alaykum,
Dear Parents,

We have introduced an exciting new way to record, track and share your child's learning during their time in Nursery and Reception. This system, called an 'online learning journal' has enabled staff to take photographs, videos and make written observations of the activities your child has completed in school. You will have access to this information (using your email address and a secure password to log in) so you can celebrate this learning at home too.

What is Tapestry?

Tapestry is an easy to use and secure online learning journal that helps Early Years staff and families share and celebrate their children's learning and development. Tapestry builds a record of a child's experiences and journey through their early years, using an online electronic journal designed and developed specifically for the EYFS. Using photos, videos and diary entries, early year's staff, along with the child's parents/carers create a record of their child's learning 'journey' together. The Tapestry platform enables the information gathered to be kept as an electronic ongoing record.

All information held in the platform is stored securely and can be downloaded and shared as required. Parents can see their child's progress and what they have been learning, through the Tapestry platform as staff share observations that have been completed. Parents can also upload their own thoughts and comments to add to these. The communication between staff and parents that Tapestry enables, helps build a shared understanding of how each child can reach their full potential.

Further information about Tapestry can be found at <https://www.tapestry.info/>

How do I access Tapestry?

Parents/carers have all been set up with a Tapestry account. You will have received an email from Tapestry asking you to create a password for your account using a link provided. We hope that all parents/carers will activate their account as soon as possible so that we can start to share information with you. Please be aware that the link will expire after 4 weeks. Please check both your inbox and your junk mail for the email and if you have not received this please send a private message on dojo and we will see to it right away.

Parents and carers will only be able to access and view their own child's information using the account and password that they create. To protect your child's information it is important to ensure that you select a strong and secure password for your account. Each child's tapestry account has been set up using the main contact email address supplied on your child's application form.

How can parents/carers use Tapestry to share information with us?

When you log in to your Tapestry account you will be able to view the observations about your child that have been shared with you.

Parents/carers will be able to comment on the observation if they would like.

Not every observation that is taken may automatically be shared with parents (for example if it is a group observation that includes comments about other children) so please rest assured, that staff have built a holistic picture of your child's learning and development. Staff have been continually making and recording observations of children's learning and used these to plan their next steps.

You will also see an option to '**add an observation**'.

Assessment in the Early Years is ongoing and is largely anecdotal, for example, recording what a child has said or done during their play and exploration to demonstrate new skills or knowledge. As children spend a considerable amount of their time at home with family

members, they will naturally demonstrate newly acquired knowledge and skills in the home environment. To accurately build a picture of your child's learning and development, and plan their next steps effectively, it is important that parents contribute to the records of their child's learning and development.

We have previously asked parents to do this by completing 'wow moment' slips. We would now like parents to make these contributions by adding to the online learning journey of their child using the '**add an observation**' function.

What would I add as an observation?

An observation would be any significant moment in your child's learning and development. An occasion where they demonstrate something which is a noteworthy achievement, new skill or next step in their learning and development.

For example, this could be:

- Where you have observed that your child has achieved (or has shown that they are making significant progress towards achieving) something that they have been working towards such as trying new foods, speech and language goals, learning new words, gaining a sports badge/award, being more confident in situations with unknown with adults or other children, learning how to ride their trike or scooter, catching a ball etc.
- Something your child does or says as part of their play, during daily activities or when out and about, that shows a significant step in their learning.

For example, you may overhear them counting their teddies as they line them up whilst playing with them, counting aloud accurately 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and you have not heard them do this before.

It might be that you are out at the park and they make comments on the bare trees or colours of the leaves that shows they are observing and describing their surroundings and using new language.

It could be that they independently pick up a book at home and begin to tell the story using the pictures and show that they have remembered the story and are repeating the story language.

Observations shared should be things that have occurred as part of your child's everyday play and activities.

The intention is not that any special activities or learning need to be set up by parents/ carers. The aim of the add an observation tool is to enable parents to easily share significant moments in their child's everyday learning that contribute to the development of a well-rounded picture of each child's learning and development by nursery staff and parents/carers.

How do I record and share an observation?

Observations added can be added in the form of a photograph or a video with a few brief notes written to explain what it is that is significant about your child's learning and development that you are sharing with us or it could just be a few typed notes in the notes box without any picture or video.

Examples of how an observation might be recorded could be:

- *Child's name* slept in their own bed last night. We are very proud!
- *Child's name* was helping me lay the table and counted out the plates that we needed, 1, 2, 3, 4. We carried on and counted to 10 together.

- *Child's name* was very excited to write her own Eid cards to her friends (accompanied with a photograph of the child's emergent mark making on the envelopes)
- *Child's name* has been practising throwing and catching the ball in the garden with his brother and has finally got it! (with a video uploaded showing this).

What happens when I add an observation?

Any observations from parents will automatically be sent to the Teacher's Tapestry account where they can be viewed by staff. Staff will review observations and add them as additional evidence to the appropriate area of learning in the child's online learning journey as appropriate.

How else can I use Tapestry to communicate information about my child with Early Years staff as well as by adding observations?

We would like to encourage parents to use Tapestry to not only share observations but also to provide us with ongoing information about your child such as their current interests and experiences so that we can discuss these with them during the course of the school day and use the information to contribute to planning for the to support your child's needs and interests.

Parents can share this type of information on the '**add an observation**' page also, by typing into the notes box.

About Me Section

There is an '**About Me**' page for each child as part of their online journal. If parents could complete the questions about their child when setting up the account this would be really helpful.

We hope that Tapestry will prove really effective as a method of sharing information and as an additional tool to aid communication between Early Years and home. We would welcome any feedback from parents on its use. If any parents/carers have any questions regarding the use of Tapestry or require assistance in setting up or accessing their account please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Kind Regards,

Nisha Daniels

Head Of Early Years

Tarbiyyah Primary School