

Early Years Newsletter Autumn Term 2023



Tannery Drift
First School

ROYSTON • HERTFORDSHIRE

www.tannerydrift.herts.sch.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to all our families, those who know us well and those who are new to our school. We hope you are ready for lots of exciting learning in the Autumn term in our Early Years classes. Thank you for your support in making the children's transition to Tannery Drift happy and successful.

We have spent time over the last few weeks preparing our classrooms, garden and courtyard so the children are able to access lots of opportunities for exploring and playing, indoors and outdoors.

For an insight into your child's learning please explore the curriculum pages on the school website and check Tapestry for regular updates and next steps.

Topics and themes for this half-term

This half term, Nursery and Reception will be getting to know each other and making new friends. We will use our green scrap books as a starting point for discussions. Please return these to school as soon as possible, so they can be shared with the class. These will then be returned home every school holiday for you to add more photos and pictures for us to share.

During the term, all our Early Years classes will enjoy trips to our school wildlife area to explore seasonal changes, discover wildlife and participate in forest-school themed activities. Please ensure your child is prepared for all weathers and has a coat and pair of wellies in school. If your child has an all-in-one wet suit, or similar, please could they bring this in on wet days.

We are so lucky to have a wide range of resources in our environment, however, we would be grateful for any donations of age-appropriate toys.

We also like to supply the children with a range of junk modelling boxes and containers (small cardboard boxes, tubes, plastic pots and containers), that they can fix and join together to build models. If you can bring in these items from your recycling, we would make good use of them in our classrooms!

Also, if you have any unwanted top-soil we would be grateful for this to enhance our mud-kitchen.

Communication from School

Our class pages of the website provide more information about our learning intentions in the Early Years.

To keep informed about important school dates and events please refer to the school website and read our weekly school newsletter. All forms and letters will be sent to you via email.

Tapestry and Parent Contributions

In Early Years, we always value your contributions to your child's learning and development. As you are aware, we use the online learning journal, Tapestry, to record what your child is learning throughout the year and publish observations

that you can comment on. We also encourage you to upload your own observations of your child. These can be moments that they are particularly proud of or something you recognise them doing for the first time, as well as pictures of special celebrations at home.

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!

The importance of this cannot be stressed enough! Please make sure that **everything** your child brings to school is clearly labelled with their name, including their shoes! Whether you sew in labels, use self-adhesive ones or a permanent pen, please make sure you do this. Unlabelled items are extremely hard to match up to their owner and young children often do not recognise their belongings, especially when they look almost identical to everyone else's. This can cause distress and upset which is easily avoidable.

Plimsolls

If your child does not yet have a pair of plimsolls at school, please provide them with a pair as soon as possible. All children change into indoor shoes when they come inside and as the weather becomes wetter and muddier this is even more necessary.

Wellies

Please also provide wellies and a weather-appropriate coat as the children will be outside in all weathers. As the weather begins to get colder and wetter, it is **essential** that all the children have these.

Water bottles and book bags

School water bottles and book bags are ideal for your child to bring each day as they can be easily and clearly labelled as well as help to manage space in our cloakrooms. Please remember that classroom water bottles should only contain water.

Accidents

As your child starts Nursery or Reception, toilet accidents may happen, even if they have previously not been an issue. Often children get so engrossed in what they are doing that by the time they realise they need to go to the toilet it is too late! Accidents are always dealt with sensitively by staff and children.

We ask that **all children** have spare clothes at school, even if they are not prone to accidents,

as changes may be needed due to spillages or messy play.

Due to an increase in children still in nappies, we request that you provide spare nappies, baby wipes and nappy bags. Unfortunately, soiled nappies/clothing will be sent home as we cannot dispose of large numbers of nappies in our usual rubbish bins. We will work with you to support toilet training. If you need advice, please ask a member of the team.

Toys

We ask that children do **not** bring toys to school.

PE

PE in Ladybirds is on a Monday morning and Thursday afternoon. All children, who are in, will partake in one of these sessions (No PE kit needed).

PE will be on Friday for Little Tigers and Red Robins. Reception children will come to school in their PE kit.

Reading Shed

In the garden area, where you have been waiting for dropping off and pick up, there is a Reading Shed. This has been stocked with a selection of books that can be borrowed to read at home. Please return these when you have finished so that they are available for others. Donations of appropriate books are always welcome and can be given to the class teachers to add.

Dates for your Diary

September

Wed 20th FTDS AGM
7.30pm in the Enrichment Room

Fri 29th FTDS cake sale*

October

Tues 3rd Individual and family photographs*
Weds 11th EY Parent Information Evening*
6pm

Tues 17th Parent Consultations*

Thurs 19th Parent Consultations*

Fri 20th Half-term

- 27th

Mon 30th Children return to school

Tues 31st Open Morning for new Early Years Parents (Nursery and Reception)*
9.30 – 11am

November

December

Fri 1st Occasional Day – school closed

Tues 5th / Reception Christmas Show*

Weds 6th 9.30am

Thur 7th Nursery Christmas Songs*
9.30am

Fri 15th Christmas Dinner Day*

Wed 20th End of term 2pm

* More details to follow

Best wishes from
The Early Years Team

