



# Welcome to Year R

## Welcome

Welcome to Year R! We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you this year and sharing your child's learning journey. As a team, we have been so impressed with how well the children have started school, quickly and independently settling into their new environments and making new friends. We hope you find this handout useful. You will also find lots of useful information and resources on our year group page of the school website which will be updated half termly throughout the year.

## Partnership with Parents

The most important person in a child's life is you! Parents and carers have a fundamental role to play in their child's education and I am sure that together, as partners, we can make their Year R experience a huge success. Should you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, social or emotional needs throughout the year, then please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. This can be arranged at drop off or collection if appropriate or alternatively you can arrange a telephone call or meeting through the school office.

## Hiltingbury Heroes - A Learner for Life

As you are aware, we encourage children to develop and apply the skills of our Hiltingbury Heroes which we believe are essential in order for them to become 'successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens'. After half term, each week teachers will choose two children in the class who have been displaying the skills of one of our Hiltingbury Heroes. They will be awarded 'learner of the week' and will be given a sticker and certificate.

Alongside this, children's efforts for displaying the skills within lessons will be immediately recognised with stickers displaying the Hiltingbury Heroes.

## Year R Curriculum and Topics

Throughout Year R, children will experience a broad and balanced curriculum covering the 7 areas of learning which develops the whole child and brings to life our motto of 'Learning, Caring and Achieving Together'. We see our curriculum like a tree with our curriculum drivers - 'Possibilities, Creativity, Diversity and Community' as the roots which brings the aims and values of our school to life and meets the needs of all children. The topics and themes in Year R are broad to allow us to follow the children's interests. You can find out more about how our curriculum is implemented on our website. The topics are engaging and opportunities have been planned throughout the year for you as parents and carers to join us. Each half term you will receive a curriculum overview which will provide you with the curriculum coverage for that half term, as well as suggestions of how you can help your child at home. Please ensure you read this carefully as key dates and events will also be shared on this overview.

## Reading

It is really important to share a variety of books at home with your child. Initially discussing the pictures, who, what, where, when and making predictions about what might happen in the story. Your child will change their coloured book band and book corner books on a Tuesday and a Friday. Your child's class teacher will record in their blue reading record when and what colour book your child will move to (not all children will move at the same rate and some will spend longer than others on different colour books) We also recommend re-reading books a few times so that children become more fluent and develop a large repertoire of books they know. Please write any comments inside the blue reading records. Please also check these reading records for the sounds and words that have been taught each week. This is a great way to further explore these sounds and words at home.

## Phonics

Your child will learn Phonics following the 'Letters and Sounds' programme starting with Phase 1 – listening activities. We have begun to teach Phase 2 of the programme and the children have been introduced to the sounds that letters make. Once the children have learnt a few of these sounds, we begin to teach the children how to blend these sounds to read words. Please explore the reading area on the website to learn more about each of the phases and find links to videos that support your knowledge of the scheme.

## Tapestry

Tapestry is a secure online learning journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation curriculum, to build up a record of your child's learning across the curriculum during their time with us in Year R. This platform allows us to work with parents and carers to share information and record your child's learning in the classroom and beyond! We encourage parents to be actively involved in your child's learning and encourage and welcome home observations detailing any wow moments, these help us to have a wider picture of your child's development.

## Writing

At the beginning of Year R, we encourage the children to make marks in a variety of different ways. Alongside this, through the provision offered both in and outside of the classroom, children have many opportunities to develop and strengthen their gross and fine motor muscles. This prime area of Physical Development is crucial to enabling the children to physically be able to hold a pencil, make marks and begin to write. We teach individual cursive letter formation through our phonics sessions when we introduce each new sound.

## PE

Our PE days are Tuesdays and Thursdays and children will come to school in their PE kit. We will let you know if there are any changes to the timetable throughout the year. As the weather gets colder, please ensure that all children have a warm jacket that is suitable for physical activity.

## Wellies

We use the outdoor learning area daily and in all weathers. We also enjoy our welly walks on a Friday. Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies in school.

## Book Bags

Please check book bags regularly for any letters that are not sent out electronically. Please can we remind you not to put water bottles inside book bags as any leakages can cause damage to the contents including your child's books. Thank you for your support.

## Wish list of resources!

We are continually developing and resourcing our outdoor area to ensure that children have the best learning experiences to develop within the 7 areas of the EYFS curriculum. If you are having a clear out at home and would like somewhere to donate anything you no longer want, we might be able to make use of it! We are currently looking for the following items:

- Home corner resources – ironing boards, pushchairs, dollies, dolls accessories
- Small world people
- Large vehicles/diggers

**If you have any further questions then please speak to your child's class teacher. They are available daily and will be more than happy to help. Thank you for your continued support.**

