**What to expect**

**from your child’s journey at Martlesham Preschool**

We use ‘Tapestry’ to publish observations of your child, which will form your child’s learning journey throughout their time at Martlesham Preschool. This will celebrate their experiences throughout their early education. Over time, it will tell a story about your child - their learning, their friends, the experiences they enjoy and the activities they complete. Staff watch and notice each child at play because it helps us to understand and support their individual wellbeing and development. We really get to know the children as unique people with special skills, interests and ideas. The more we understand about your child, the better we can support them in the way that is right for them.

Your child’s key person will work closely with you throughout the time you are at Martlesham Preschool. We value parents and carers adding to their child’s profile; sharing their experiences outside of preschool and commenting on observations made by preschool staff.

We also encourage you to talk with your child about their Learning Journey and feel free to add in family photographs or other things of significance for your child. At this age, so much happens so quickly and we would love to hear about events, activities or achievements which can be put into your child’s Learning Journey. Feel free to leave us a note, have a chat with a member of staff or bring in a photo, drawing or souvenir to share with us. When you tell us about your child, a clearer picture unfolds and together, we can plan more effectively to help your child’s learning and development.

Throughout your child’s Learning Journey, you may see references to areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which supports children from birth to the end of their reception year at school. The Learning Journey will include the following:

* Photographs - These capture moments and sequences of your child’s experiences, their interests and explorations.
* Your Child’s Creations - These could be photos of models your child has built, photos of their role-play activities, marks they have made or artwork they have created. Sometimes we will add some additional notes to explain what your child did or said.
* Observations - As your child completes tasks and activities, staff will observe what your child says and does. We will sometimes make notes of our observations to record information about significant moments in your child’s learning and development. We record important milestones in your child’s learning and use these to think about what and how your child is learning, their development and how best to support them further.

**There are seven Areas of Learning and Development:**

**Three Prime Areas**

* Communication and Language
* Personal, Social and Emotional Development
* Physical Development

**Four Specific Areas**

* Literacy
* Mathematics
* Understanding the World
* Expressive Arts and Design

Alongside these Areas of Learning and Development, there are also the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning which describe how your child learns best. The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning are:

* Playing and Exploring - Finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to ‘have a go’
* Active Learning - Being involved and concentrating, keep trying, enjoying achieving what they set out to do
* Creating and Thinking Critically - Having their own ideas, making links, choosing ways to do things

Staff may refer to these areas and the characteristics when planning and preparing activities and also when observing your child.

We hope you enjoy contributing to and looking through your child’s Learning Journey.

Of course, if you have any questions, please ask a member of staff. Thank you!

You can get some more in-depth information on ‘what to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage’ at <https://foundationyears.org.uk/files/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

You will also find the link to this on our website.