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Introducing Online Learning Journeys

Dear Parent / Carer

Over the next few weeks you may notice our staff using tablet computers. They are trialling a new digital method for recording observations of children's learning.

The nursery day is carefully planned to give a balance of adult-led and child-led activities. We adapt planned activities for individual children, in order to reflect their particular skills, interests and development needs. This means that the staff are constantly looking out for what each child is doing or understanding and recording these as observations, then reflecting on what they mean and what the next steps should be. The staff record their "observations" in what is known as a "learning journey" which is a collection of different documents prepared by the staff to provide a picture of a child's development under the seven areas of learning such as Physical Development, Communication & Language, etc.

While there is a statutory need to record and monitor progress, we also need to ensure that this process doesn't get in the way of actually interacting and playing with the children. Like most nurseries, we have evolved a system consisting of notes and annotations, supplemented by photographs and art-work. These are interspersed with observations made by staff members including notes of relevant conversations or comments made by a child. These records are kept in our paper learning journeys and are shared with you at various points during the year.

Whilst this works very well, it does also have some limitations. If you want to see how your child's speech has developed, how much better would it be to be able to listen to a series of recordings over a period of time? And wouldn't it be so much better if you, as parents, could contribute your own photos, observations and thoughts to the learning journey record, rather than everything being exclusively from the nursery?

Digital learning journeys will enable these elements and enhance the written recording process. We are piloting a system called eyLog (for **early years Log**) which allows staff to capture a photo, a video clip or a voice recording as well as written notes using a tablet computer and to assign this to one or more children. These observations from staff members are then uploaded to a secure web-based learning journey to which you as a parent would also have access to.

We believe that using online learning journeys will allow a rich body of evidence to support our partnership with parents and help us to plan comprehensively for individual children's development. It is also a wonderful keepsake for you to share with your child!

The technology also supports a daily record, especially for the under 2-year olds, of food, milk, and nappy changes. By logging these as they occur, we can ensure that up-to-date information is always available to parents. This will also free up staff to talk to you more about your children, rather than delivering a list of "inputs and outputs".



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Parents may have questions about the security of such an online system.

The tablets that are used to record the observations are supplied with a custom "firmware" in which all applications, except for eyLog, have been removed. This ensures that the tablets cannot be misused - for example, it is not possible to access other applications such as Facebook, websites or to send any e-mail messages from the tablets.

No data is stored either on the tablets or on the nursery computer. As soon as an observation has been recorded and uploaded to the eyLog server, it is automatically deleted from the tablet.

All data is held in encrypted form and is accessed subject to a secure login and password. The only people who can access a child's learning journey are the relevant nursery staff (manager, room leaders, key persons) and the child's parents.

In our opinion, the application permits a richer learning journey than its paper equivalent, but also offers a more secure way to record and share these learning journeys. We are excited by this new approach to sharing learning journeys with you. After a few weeks' of internal trialling by the staff members, we will be inviting you to access your child's online learning journey. We will send you further details around access arrangements shortly.

The eyLog website (<https://eylog.co.uk>) has more information as well as a list of FAQs. Please do have a look to find out more about this exciting development.

Yours sincerely,

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Mrs A Prandle

Nursery Manager



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eyLog Registration and Consent

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I have read the information about the eyLog system and understand that by signing this consent form I will receive an email message and will be able to log in and see observations of my child. These observations may include photographs, video clips or audio recordings.

I hereby give consent for my child to be photographed/videoed for record- keeping purposes and for the use of Early Years Professionals at Avalon School.

I understand that there may be group photographs/videos that incorporate images of my child and other children and teachers. I agree that these photographs/videos may be used in other children's learning journeys. To protect and respect privacy, I agree not to use/upload/share the photographs, videos and audio recordings involving other children on public web-sites such as social media websites and may not utilise information from my child's learning journey for purposes other than understanding the development of my child.

I agree that my child's observations, learning journey, reports and other documents created through eyLog can be stored on eyLog's systems. I agree to log in using only the personal log-in provided to me. The following email address(es) can be used to send me notifications through the eyLog system.

Your Name	Your e-mail ID	Relationship to the child	Your Signature