Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a wonderful and restful Easter Holiday. We are looking forward to another wonderful term of learning. The children have made so much progress so far and as always we are keen to to work with you as parents to ensure that the children's amazing learning journey can continue. If you do have any concerns or feel your child would benefit from additional support then please do get in touch or catch us at the beginning or end of the school.

Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you for the half term ahead.

<u>PE</u>

Please remember that our PE day is **Thursday**. PE kits should be in school on these days but may not be used as we will limit changing in school. PE will be outside where possible and appropriate.

Outdoor learning

Our outdoor environment is a key part of learning in our Early Years Curriculum and we therefore take every opportunity to access our outdoor area as much as possible. This means that your child will need appropriate footwear and clothing every day. Please ensure your child has some wellies and a waterproof coat to wear each day. As the weather improves, your child will need a sunhat and we also ask that you apply suncream before coming to school on days that are particularly hot and sunny.

Reading Books

Your child will continue to take home a colour book banded book (Pink, Red, Yellow...) as well as a Read Write Inc. book linked to their individual phonic level each week. These will be monitored to ensure they are returned. The books are new and have cost the school a substantial amount of money so we would appreciate your cooperation with this. Reading continues to be a big focus at The Ellis as it is such a key skill to master. Please talk to a member of our Foundation Stage Team if you have any question about reading with your child, we are always happy to help and support.

Please make sure that you write in the diary at least once a week after listening to your children read. Your comments and feedback are an invaluable way of gauging how well your child is developing as an early reader.

Foundation Phonics - Read Write Inc.

Your child will continue to participate in a daily Read Write Inc. sessions to further develop and secure their ability to Fred Talk and read words. The sessions also help children to write words using their Fred Fingers e.g. "Show me three Fred Fingers. Say the word cat, pinch the sounds c-a-t, write the word!"

Below are some useful videos that you may want to watch to support your child at home:

- How to pronounce the Set 1 and Set 2 sounds: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUq7Q
- Understanding RWI Phonics: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXOJUPNVnLc
- Reading phonic books with your child: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLXCVD MVOa
- Why read with your child: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjHqJQ8sxs4

Home Learning

Your child will continue to bring home their 'Home Learning' book. Please remember that this is an important opportunity to be part of a home school partnership, becoming involved in your child's education. Every week the staff at school will put something into the learning journey to let you know what your child has been doing in school. In return we ask you to do the same. When you share an activity with your child you can take a photograph or write us a message telling us about it.

How can you help at home?

Please talk to your child as much as you can. Language is everything at this stage of your child's development. Ask your child what they have done each day at school. Encourage your child to talk about their interests etc. Talk about what you are doing each day at home to model how to speak in full sentences.

Read, read! Storytime is so important for developing children's love and reading and extending their vocabulary. Remember to ask your child about the main characters, where the story is set, what happens at the beginning, middle and end of the story.

Count at every opportunity, emphasising how we point to each object and say a number to find out how many things there are in a given set of objects.

Give your child plenty of opportunity to use scissors and show them how to cut properly if they need support.

Please remember that being able to use a knife and fork is now a key expectation by the end of the Reception Year. Please help your child to learn how to use a knife and fork at meal times.

Encourage them to draw as much as possible—this helps to develop children's concentration, imagination and fine motor skills.

Ensure that they understand the importance of brushing their teeth at least twice a day and after meals if possible.

Go on walks and encourage them to run, climb and balance.

Encourage them to get dressed on their own. Show them how to turn their coat sleeves the right way around, how to zip up their coat and put on a pair of gloves.

Show them how to put tights or socks on properly.

Please also remember the list of *Things to before you're 5*. This is a comprehensive list of key experiences devised by Early Years experts and are important for children as they will enhance their early development and key skills by participating in these activities. Please send any photos of your children participating in these activities into school so that we can add them to our class display. Alternatively you can email them to school to Mrs Fiddes h.fiddes@theellis.org or send them to us via Twitter @theellisf2

Our topic for this term is 'Where we live'. Below is an overview of the learning we will be doing in school.

Communication and Language

We will have the opportunity to learn lots of new vocabulary related to our topic e.g. maps, globe, world, United Kingdom, Great Britain. We will also listen to and follow instructions making and creating things. We will listen to and retell different stories. We will talk about our families, where we live and the places we have visited.

Expressive Art and Design

We will learn songs related to our topic.

We will draw simple story maps and maps of our journey to school.

We will do observational drawing of plants and animals (mini-beasts) in our immediate environment.

We will also learn to weave in Art this half term!

Understanding the World

We will have the opportunity to learn about things that grow in our garden.

We will begin to look for minibeasts in our outdoor area, we will even visit our pond and Forest School areas!

We will look at globes, maps, books and Power Points o find out about different places in the world, our country and our local area.

Personal Social and Emotional

We will continue to develop our independence skills when participating in different activities. We will also work as a team. We will learn how to care for growing plants and animals.

RE

We will be thinking about what we can learn from stories from the bible and stories from other cultures..

We will begin to understand the parables from the bible are stories that have a lesson to learn at the end of them.

Mathematics

We will learn about the composition of numbers up to 10.

We will begin to learn about doubles up to 10. We learn about everyday "D shapes in our environment by looking at everyday objects found at home. We will also make 2D shape pictures and create repeating patterns.

We will learn how to recognise coins up to 10p and begin to find money totals. We will learn how to select coins to pay for a familiar item. We will also begin to learn how to tell o'clock times.

Our topic is 'Where we live!'

Physical Development

We will use a range of different equipment in the garden when sowing seeds and growing plants.

We will continue to practise using a knife and fork at lunchtime and at home. We will continue to develop our handwriting so that we can form all letters correctly.

In PE, we will be learning simple ball skills particularly linked to throwing and catching.

Literacy

We will read a range of different fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our topic.

We will draw and create different maps such as treasure maps, story maps and simple maps of our journey to school.

We will continue to use our phonics to help us to segment and blend the sounds in more difficult words.

We will sound out words when writing them but will learn how to spell some tricky words like 'the', 'to' 'was' etc. from memory.

Online Learning

As a school we have subscribed to websites to support the children with their learning. Please remember that all the children have access to Spelling Shed activities each week and you may want to post some of your learning on our learning platform See-Saw.

Number Blocks is a fantastic online programme for early Maths development. We use the episodes in school to teach children the relationship between each number. Topmarks Maths is also a fantastic website for the children to be practising all areas of the maths curriculum using interactive games.

<u>Twitter</u>

We use Twitter to share learning, celebrate achievements and give information. You can find the Delightful Donaldsons on Twitter @theellisf2, so please follow us. Please feel free to send us any key learning or achievement that your child has done outside of school.

If you have any questions, queries or worries then please feel free to catch Mr Grayhurst or Mrs Beevers at the start or end of the school day. You can also get in touch via the phone or email if this is more convenient for you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr Grayhurst and Mrs Beevers ©