

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 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.

PE

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=TkXcabDUg7Q>
- Understanding RWI Phonics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXOJUPNVnLc>
- Reading phonic books with your child: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLXCVD_MVOg
- 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, 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.

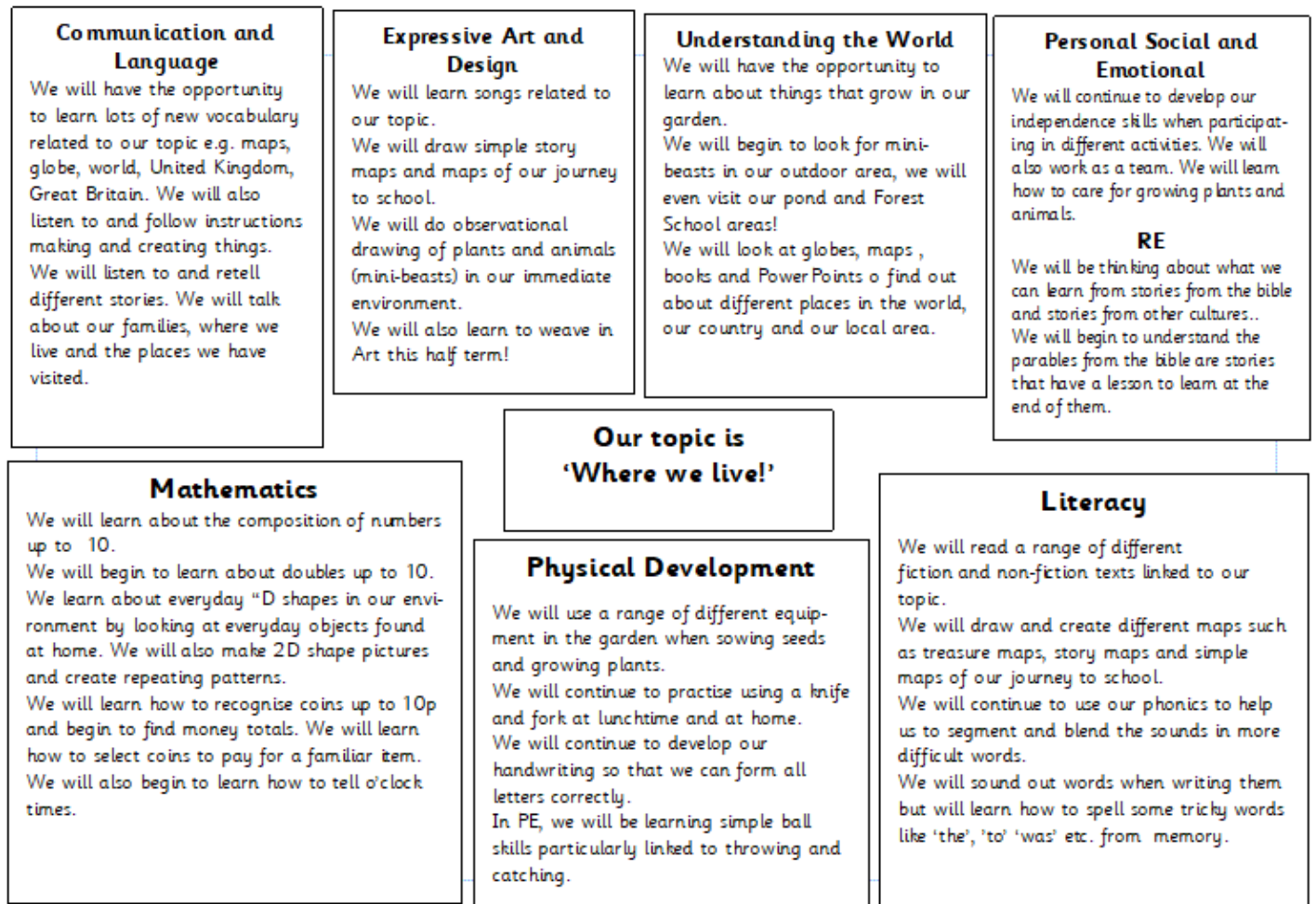
Go on walks and encourage them to run, climb and balance.

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.



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.

Twitter

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 ☺