

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome your children back to school and we hope that they are excited to be back and ready to learn. We are keen to support all our children to settle into school life so please do get in touch if you have any concerns or feel your child would benefit from additional support.

Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you.

## PE

Our PE day is **Thursday**. PE kits should be in school on this day. PE will be outside where possible and appropriate.

## Outdoor learning

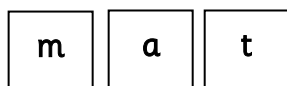
At The Ellis we are working hard to develop the outdoor environment and opportunities to learn outside and in F2 we will be using our outdoor areas as much as possible. This means that your child will need appropriate footwear and coats every day. Most of our children now have wellies in school. If you know that your child does not have any wellies in school could you please send a pair into school as soon as possible, as Autumn is fast approaching and are expecting a change in the weather.

## Reading Books

Reading is a big focus at The Ellis. Home reading books are given to children to share with a member of the family at home. It is very important that you talk about reading books with your child at home. When you share a book with your child please talk about the pictures, what is happening in the story and ask your child what they think might happen next. These activities are as important as reading the words on each page. Please talk to a member of our Foundation Stage Team if you have any questions about reading with your child. Books will initially be changed once a week during the first term. Your child will receive a colour book banded book as well as a Read Write Inc. book linked to their individual phonic level. 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. Thank you.

We will also be introducing reading diaries this term. When you receive your child's diary, 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. We will also award regular reading using our reward system in school. Please note that we will replace completed diaries but if lost we ask that a new one is bought from the office at the cost of £1.

All children will bring home some High Frequency Words on cards so please help them to practise reading these words by sight as much as possible. We also send home a 'key ring' with four letter sounds each week to practise at home; you will also receive a list of words that you can make with these cards e.g.



## Foundation Phonics – Read Write Inc.

Each child takes part in a daily lesson to develop basic phonic skills in reading and writing. Every week, each child's sight words will be checked and where appropriate, 4 more words will be sent home to learn.

Each child will have letter sounds added to their individual key rings every week. Each child will need to recognise each letter of the alphabet and relate it to the first sound of objects e.g. c at, c ar, c an all begin with 'c'. Please try not to use letter names when working with your child as this can be confusing when they are learning to read words phonetically. Please refer to the parent information booklet that was sent out in July for information about our Read Write Inc. phonic scheme. If you need a paper copy of this booklet then please let us know.

## Topic

Our topic this half term is 'All About Me'. Please see the topic web below for an overview of our learning this half term.

**Physical Development (PD)**

- I will interact with funky fingers activities
- I will be using tools safely
- I will be learning about how to be healthy
- I will be describing the changes my body after being active.
- I will be moving with control and co-ordination over, under, through various small apparatus.
- I will be using a range of small and large equipment.
- I will be using a range of malleable materials in my play.

**Personal Social Emotional Development (PSED)**

- I will be creating class rules with my friends.
- I will be participating in turn taking games
- I will be trying out new activities independently and select resources independently.
- I will be dressing and undressing independently for P.E
- I will be learning routines of the school day
- I will be learning to think about the feelings of others
- I will be learning and talking about my family and other people who are important to me

**Literacy (L)**

- I will be learning to recognise and write my name.
- I will be learning to write familiar words such as mum, dad
- I will be writing about myself and my family.
- I will be learning to write for a purpose e.g. making lists, labelling pictures.
- I will be reading a range of fiction books
- I will be learning different sounds that letters make (phonics)
- I will be learning to blend sounds together to make simple words.

**Understanding the World (UW)**

- I will be using digital cameras to take photos of my friends
- I will be using all five senses to investigate area around them
- I will be recognising similarities and differences between each other
- I will be going on a walk around my school environment.
- I will be learning about different parts of the body.

**Communication and Language (CL)**

- I will be learning to talk about myself using describing words such as tall, short.
- I will be imagining and recreating roles in real life family situations and fictional stories.
- I will be asking questions to get to know my friends in my new class.
- I will be talking about my family
- I will be thinking about sequence of events in stories and saying what happened in the beginning, middle and end.

**Expressive Arts & Design (EAD)**

- I will be drawing pictures of myself using mirrors.
- I will be drawing pictures of my family
- I will be thinking about colours and using them appropriately in my pictures.
- I will be using a range of objects to print with e.g. shoes, hands
- I will be learning new songs to help me in my learning.
- I will be roleplaying in the home corner.
- I will be acting out stories with puppets.
- I will be using a range of materials to make collages and models.

**Mathematics (M)**

- I will be learning to count, recognize and order numbers to 5.
- I will be learning to match numbers to quantities of groups up to 5.
- I will be learning to say the number one more up to 5.
- I will be learning to name and describe simple 2D.
- I will be sorting shapes and objects by colour and size
- I will be learning to create repeating patterns.
- I will be comparing myself, my friends and family and putting my findings into simple graphs and tables
- I will be ordering the events in my day.

Reception Autumn 1 2022

# All About Me

## Home Learning

We will provide a journal to record your child's 'learning journey' through the Foundation stage. It is an 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.

Please also remember the list of **Things to do 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](mailto:h.fiddes@theellis.org) or send them to us via Twitter @theellisf2

## Parent Partnerships

As an Early Years Team we are eager to forge good working relationships with you as parents as your involvement is so crucial to your child's early development. We are planning to organise an EYFS Library Session once a week and we will be sending you further details about this in the next few weeks. We will also be running our much loved EYFS Coffee Mornings throughout the year, which is a wonderful chance to bring all our children and families together. The children will perform songs and homemade gifts will also be on sale.

### Online Learning

As a school we have subscribed to websites to support the children with their learning. We use Spelling Shed to help the children learn how to spell words. The children will be given their individual logins for Spelling Shed very soon. You will find your child's login details at the front of their reading diaries (these will be sent out in week 3 w/c 12 .9.2022). We will also be providing you with login details for your child for our online Learning Platform SeeSaw. SeeSaw can be used to post photos of home learning and can also be used for remote learning in cases where individual children have to isolate due to Covid. We encourage you to log in to the platform and add some post of things that your children really enjoy doing, this could even be from the list of 50 things to do!

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 Ready Robins 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 get in touch via the phone or email. We know that there will be a whole range of feelings about the return to school, from excitement to anxiety but are ready to support all our learners and to enjoy learning together again.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr Grayhurst, Mrs Beevers, Mrs Allott and Mrs Willis ☺