

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful half-term break. It has been so wonderful to welcome the children back this week, it has been lovely to see how quickly they have settled back into school life.

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.

### Reading

Reading is a big focus at The Ellis. Library 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. The children will continue to access Read Write Inc. phonic activities on See-Saw and when your child is ready, they will start to take home 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 reintroduce the reading diaries to those children who are ready to read a reading book at home. 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.

### Foundation Phonics – Read Write Inc.

Please continue to practise the letters that have already been sent home. We will give you updates each week in your child's home-learning journal.

### Topic

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

<p><b>Expressive Art and Design</b></p> <p>We will have the opportunity to play with small world linked to stories. We will experiment with colour mixing. We will create light and dark pictures using different media e.g. paint, chalk, pastels etc. We will make different things such as Diva Lamps and lanterns We will learn different songs and rhymes with actions.</p>	<p><b>Understanding the World</b></p> <p>We will learn about seasons and changes. We will learn about different celebrations—Harvest, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Christmas. We will learn about nocturnal animals, different sources of light, shadows etc. We will look at how light reflects off some materials. We will use our senses to explore different objects.</p>	<p><b>Personal Social and Emotional</b></p> <p>We will learn to take turns when playing games. We will work as a team when participating in different activities. We will talk about the morals of different stories. We will learn to keep our classroom rules. We will also learn about staying safe in the dark.</p> <p><b>RE</b></p> <p>We will be learning about the different Autumn celebrations leading up to Christmas as well as the Nativity Story – the birth of Jesus. We will also learn about different festivals of light such as Diwali.</p>
<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p>We will learn new words related to our topic. We will use different time words when talking about familiar events. We will use descriptive language when talking about different textures and visual characteristics. We will listen to stories with repeated lines and rhyming words. We will listen and follow instructions. We will develop our own stories and narrative in our play. We will engage in role-play activities e.g. in the home-corner.</p>	<p><b>Our topic in F2 this half term is 'Seasons'</b></p> 	<p>During this half term we will be preparing for our Christmas celebrations! We will be making gifts for our Christmas coffee morning, learning our Christmas songs and rhymes, taking part in Christmas jumper day and our Foundation Stage Christmas Party...what fun times!</p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>We sing number rhymes and songs and use our number fingers to help us count. We will count objects and find the corresponding number. We will order numbers on candles, rockets etc. We will make number and shape patterns. We will sequence familiar events in chronological order. We will sort objects into different groups e.g. light/dark, colours etc. We will use everyday words associated with time e.g. the days of the week, months of the year, seasons.</p>	<p><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p>We will build dens using different materials. We will participate in a range of different activities to develop our gross motor skills such as Sticky Kids, PE lessons and outdoor play. We will use different resources such as playdough, mark making equipment and scissors to develop our fine motor skills.</p>	<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>We will listen and respond to different rhymes and stories such as Owl Babies, The Tiger who Came to Tea, and stories about Winter. We will talk about our favourite bedtime stories. We will read non-fiction books together to learn about the seasons. We will sequence pictures from different stories and rhymes. We will learn how to blend the sounds in three letter words known as CVC words e.g. d-o-g... dog. We will begin to learn to read and write simple words, labels and sentences.</p>

### How can you help at home?

This half term we will be learning about different the four seasons and the changes that they bring. We will mainly focus on the current seasons of Autumn and Winter as well as celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas as well as other times when we have parties. An information sheet will be sent out with the homework so that you are aware of the key focus for each week which will help you support your child's learning at home. Could you please help by encouraging your child to hold their pencil or pen correctly when mark making. Also, could you please continue to help your child to use cutlery correctly as this will help them to be more independent when eating their lunch in the dinner hall.

### Home Learning

A big thank you for all the wonderful evidence that you have been updating us in your child's home 'learning journey', it is really useful to find out about all the fantastic learning and activities that the children are experiencing outside of school. We will continue to put an update into the learning journey to let you know what your child has been doing in school.

### 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 will be running a Reading Workshop in November so please look out for further details soon. 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. Our next one will be our Christmas Coffee Morning in December so we look forward to seeing you there!

### Online Learning

Please continue to look out for activities posted on See-Saw. Thank you so much for all the fantastic posts so far!

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 Super Stars 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 😊