

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a lovely half term holiday. It is lovely to finally see some signs of Spring on the way. We have got lots of exciting learning ahead for your children this half term. Below is some information which we hope will be helpful to you.

### PE

Our PE day is **Thursday**. PE kits should be in school on this day. Please remember that PE kits should consist of a white T Shirt and black shorts.

### Reading

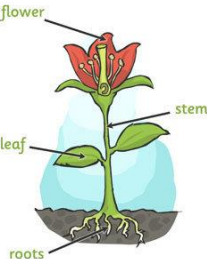
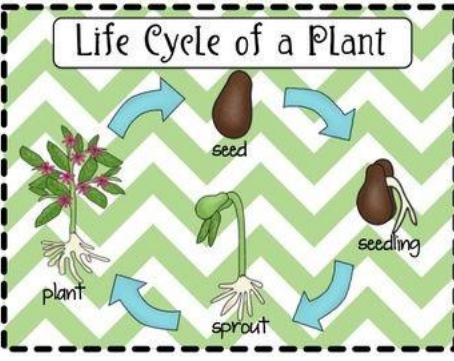
Reading continues to be a big focus at The Ellis. Library books are given to children to share with a member of the family at home. It is very important that you talk about reading books with your child at home. When you share a book with your child please talk about the pictures, what is happening in 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. All the children should now be taking home a Read Write Inc. book linked to their individual phonic level. These will be monitored to ensure they are returned each week. These books are still relatively new and have cost the school a substantial amount of money so we know that we have your support in looking after these books when you are reading them at home with your children.

All children should now have a reading diary in their red Home Learning Folder. If you haven't got one or have lost it then please see Mr Grayhurst or Mrs Beevers. 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.

In addition to RWI reading books, your child will also take home two High Frequency Words each week. These words need to be learned by sight so please practise this as regularly as you can. If you have any queries about how to support your child then please see a member of the F2 Team.

## Topic

Our topic this half term is 'Growing'. 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 learn songs related to our topic. We will draw, paint and make models of different animals and plants. Our focus this half term is painting. The children will have experience of finger painting, outdoor painting, painting with different sized paint brushes and combining different medias i.e. collage and paint. We will also decorate a plain plant pot with colourful designs. The children will also engage in Easter crafts towards the end of this half term.</p>	<p><b>Understanding the World</b></p> <p>We will have the opportunity to find out how animals and plants grow and change over time. We will explore Spring and learn how to look after the plants that grow in our garden. We will learn that plants require water and light in order to grow. We will also learn about the different parts of a plant and understand that seeds grow into plants.</p> 	<p><b>Personal Social and Emotional</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>RE</b></p> <p>We will learn about the different stories that Jesus told. Towards the end of this half term we will listen and respond to the Easter story. We will find out how Christians celebrate Easter and learn some fun songs.</p>
<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p>We will learn new words related to our topic. Use adjectives to describe signs of Spring and flowering plants around us. Speak in full sentences of at least 8 or more words. To ask simple questions to find out more. Listen and respond appropriately to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion. Links statements and sticks to a main theme or intention. Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives. Talk about an event in more detail.</p>	<p><b>Our topic this half term is 'Growing'</b></p> 	<p>During this half term we will also be looking for the signs of Spring and learning about all the new life that this season brings. We will also learn about the important time of Lent and the celebration of Easter!</p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>We will explore symmetrical patterns, in which each side is a familiar pattern, linking this to 'doubles'.</p> <p>Continue to consolidate their understanding of the value of numbers, working with larger numbers within 10</p> <p>We will become more familiar with the counting pattern up to and beyond 20 when reciting numbers in order.</p> <p>We will explore the composition of odd and even numbers, looking at the 'shape' of these numbers</p> <p>Begin to link even numbers to doubles</p> <p>Begin to explore the composition of numbers within 10.</p> <p>We will compare capacity of different sized objects to find out how much they can hold.</p> <p>We will explore the properties of 3D solid shapes</p> <p>We will identify, make and continue repeating patterns.</p>	<p><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p>Travels with confidence and skill around, under, over and through when balancing and climbing on equipment. Revise and refine different ways of moving e.g. rolling, walking, running, skipping, crawling, jumping hopping, climbing.</p> <p>Move in time to music and create a simple sequence of movement in Dance PE lessons.</p> <p>Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials. To use tools appropriately.</p> <p>Hold a pencil in a comfortable and appropriate grip – usually between thumb and first two fingers (tripod).</p> <p>Use anti-clockwise movements in their mark-making.</p> <p>To form some letter shapes correctly. To form recognisable letters.</p>	<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>We will read a range of different fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our theme of growth such as Jack and the Beanstalk and The Tiny Seed. We will read and follow simple instructions to help plant seeds. We will have the opportunity to label different objects, write a simple set of instructions and make little story books. We will continue to use our phonics to Sound out words when writing them but will learn how to spell some tricky words e.g. <i>the</i>.</p> <p><b>Reading Skills</b></p> <p>Understand that words are made up of a group of letters representing those sounds. Begin to blend individual letter sounds into words (CV and CVC words) and read them with support. Segments and blend the sounds in simple words to read them independently.</p> <p><b>Writing Skills</b></p> <p>Gives meaning to all marks that they make Break down the flow of speech into words Begin to identify letters and write recognisable letters in sequence when writing longer words To segment the sounds in words when writing VC and CVC words</p>

## How can you help at home?

Here are some other ways you could help your child at home:

- Letter formation is a main focus for this half term as it is a key expectation that children can form letters correctly by the end of the 'Reception Year'. Please help by showing your child how to form letters correctly when writing their name or completing any written homework. It would also be really helpful if you could please encourage your child to hold a pencil correctly using a tripod grip (between their thumb and first two fingers). It is very important that you show your child how to form letters properly as it is very easy for children to get into bad habits which are hard to undo. It is a key expectation that children can form letters correctly by the end of F2 so your help and support with this is vital.
- Look for signs of Spring. Plant seeds and watch them grow. Talk to your child how to care for and nurture plants as they grow in our gardens and in our local area.
- 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.
- Lots of children are still having difficulty using cutlery. Please show them how to use a knife and fork when they are eating meals at home. We support them at school as much as we can but this is a skill that is mainly learned at home and it is important that the children master this.
- Encourage them to draw as much as possible—this helps to develop children's concentration, imagination and fine motor skills.

## 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 continue 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 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 Easter Coffee Morning on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 9am-10.30am so we look forward to seeing you there!

### Milk Scheme

Please remember that as your child reaches the term that they are 5 they will no longer automatically entitled to free school milk. Should you wish to register your child for milk please visit **School Milk UK** online and search for our school. School Milk offer various payment options and you can choose the amount you wish to pay and the payment process appears quick and easy. If you have any queries regarding registering for milk, please contact School Milk directly on 0845 3402100.

### Online Learning

Please continue to use See-Saw to share all the exciting learning that is happening outside of school. 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 see a member of our team at the beginning or end of the school day or get in touch via the phone or email. We are here to help and we will always make time to speak to you as all queries or concerns are important to us.

Thank you for your continued support, we really appreciate it!

Best wishes and kind regards,

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