

Dear Reception 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 **Friday**. Please make sure that your child has their PE kits for this lesson.

## 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 we are expecting a change in the weather.

## Foundation Phonics – Read Write Inc.

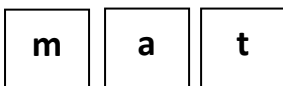
Each child takes part in a daily lesson to develop basic phonic skills in reading and writing. Every week, each child's sight words will be checked and where appropriate, 4 more words will be sent home to learn.

Each child will have letter sounds added to their individual keyrings 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. phonics scheme. If you need a paper copy of this booklet then please let us know.

## Reading at The Ellis

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 to your child. Children will initially have access to Read Write Inc. phonic activities on our learning platform Seesaw to practise their oral blending skills.

We send home a 'keyring' 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.



When your child is ready, they will start to take home a Read Write Inc. book linked to their individual phonic level. Further information about early reading will be provided when your child is at this stage of their development.

## Overview of Learning for Autumn 1

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Expressive Art and Design</b></p> <p><b>Music: Being Imaginative</b> Children will sing and perform nursery rhymes.</p> <p><b>Art &amp; Design: Creating with Materials</b> <b>Drawing Skills:</b> Children will explore mark making and begin to draw in more detail.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Understanding the World</b></p> <p><b>History: Past and Present</b> Children will know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now.</p> <p><b>Geography: People, Culture and Communities</b> Children will know that there are many countries around the world.</p> <p><b>Science: The Natural World</b> Children will explore and ask questions about the natural world around them.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Personal Social and Emotional Self-Regulation</b></p> <p>Children will be able to follow one step instructions. Children will recognise different emotions. Children will focus during short whole class activities.</p> <p><b>Managing Self</b> Children will learn to wash their hands independently.</p> <p><b>Building Relationships</b> Children will seek support from adults and gain confidence to speak to peers and adults.</p> <p><b>RE</b> We will be learning about what makes people special. The children will learn why Jesus is a special role model for Christians.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p><b>Listening, Attention and Understanding</b> Children will be able to understand how to listen carefully and know why it is important.</p> <p><b>Speaking</b> Children will talk in front of small groups and their teacher offering their own ideas.</p>	<p><b>Our topic in F2 this half term</b></p> <p><b>'Nursery Rhymes'</b></p>	<p>During this half term we will be reciting and singing lots of songs and Nursery Rhymes. We will also be preparing for our Autumn celebration of Harvest! We will be making gifts and learning seasonal songs and rhymes for our Autumn coffee morning! We look forward to seeing you there.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>During the first half term in Reception, pupils will build on previous experiences of number from their home and nursery environment. We will be learning about numbers 1-4 and practise recognising amount up to 3 without counting. We call this subitising. The children will also practise counting up to 3 or 4 objects by saying a number name for each item. They will explore how numbers are made up e.g. 2 is made of 1 and 1, 3 is 2 and 1 more etc. They will begin to compare sets of objects and say which has more or fewer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p><b>Gross Motor</b> Children will learn to move safely in a space and introductory PE lesson will focus on developing this basic skill.</p> <p><b>Fine Motor</b> Children will use their dominant hand to hold a pencil in a comfortable and appropriate grip – usually between thumb and first two fingers (tripod).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Literacy</b></p> <p><b>Comprehension</b> Children will learn how to look at a book, hold it the correct way and turn the pages.</p> <p><b>Word Reading</b> Children will segment and blend sounds in simple words orally.</p> <p><b>Writing</b> Children will give meanings to the marks they make.</p>

### How can you help your child at home?

This half term we will be learning lots of Nursery Rhymes. Please sing lots of rhymes and songs with your child at home. We will mainly focus on the seasonal change of Summer to Autumn, please start looking for the early signs outside. An information sheet will be sent with the homework to make 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? Please refer to the nip, grip, flip poster which will be sent home in your child's red home learning folder this week. Also, could you please ensure that you take the time to show and support your child to use cutlery correctly (the traditional method is fork in left hand and knife in right hand). This will help the children to be more independent when eating their lunch in the dinner hall.

### 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 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 Miss Dodd or Mrs Fiddes, our school secretaries at [office@theellis.org](mailto:office@theellis.org)

### Online Learning

As a school we have subscribed to websites to support the children with their learning. We will soon provide you with login details for your child for our online Learning Platform Seesaw. Seesaw can be used to post photos of home learning. We encourage you to log in to the platform and post things that your children really enjoy doing, this could even be from the list of 50 things to do!

Later in the year, (during the Spring Term) we will be using Spelling Shed to help the children learn how to spell words. The children will be given their individual logins for Spelling Shed nearer the time.

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.

### Parent Partnerships

As an Early Years Team, we are eager to forge good working relationships with you as parents, as your involvement is 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 be on sale.

### X / Twitter

We use X (formally known as Twitter) to share learning, celebrate achievements and give information. You can find The Acorns on X @theellisF2, please follow us. Please feel free to send 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 we are ready to support all our learners and to enjoy learning together again.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes and kind regards,

Mr Grayhurst, Mrs Beevers, Mrs Willis and Mrs Lawson