

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and a good start to the New Year. It has been so wonderful to welcome the children back, 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 for the first half of the Spring Term.

### PE

Our PE day is **Friday**. PE kits should be in school on this day so that your child can participate.

### 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 Seesaw 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 and we would appreciate your cooperation with this. Thank you.

We will introduce 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 child 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 however, 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 'Toys'. 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>We will have the opportunity to play with small world linked to stories.</p> <p>We will experiment with colour mixing.</p> <p>We will create light and dark pictures using different media e.g. paint, chalk, pastels etc.</p> <p>We will make different things such as Diva Lamps and lanterns.</p> <p>We will learn different songs and rhymes with actions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Understanding the World</b></p> <p>We will learn about life in the past by exploring old toys. We will find out how toys have changed throughout the years by comparing toys e.g. an old and new teddy bear.</p> <p>We will also investigate how toys move and also explore what different materials they are made from.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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. Caring for property – link to looking after school resources (toys) and how objects can be fragile and need to be handled with care.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RE</b></p> <p>We will be learning about different New Year celebration such as the Chinese New Year, Persian New Year, and Holi (a Hindu festival).</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communication &amp; Language</b></p> <p>We will talk about our favourite toys.</p> <p>We will learn lots of new words linked to our topic of toys.</p> <p>We will listen to and talk about lots of different stories about toys.</p> <p>We will continue to learn new rhymes and sing songs.</p>	<p><b><u>Our topic in F2 this half term is 'Toys'</u></b></p> <p><b>Below are some new words that we want to learn.</b></p>		<p><u>Key Dates:</u></p> <p>16.1.24 Parent Workshop – Writing in the Early Years 4:30-5:30pm</p> <p>19.1.24 Teddy Bear's Picnic – your child will need to bring their own teddy bear on this day!</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First, we can use these words...</b></p> <p><b>toys</b> <b>play</b> <b>doll</b> <b>car</b> <b>bricks</b> <b>teddies</b> <b>soft toys</b> <b>dinosaurs</b> <b>trains</b> <b>old</b> <b>new</b> <b>move</b> <b>up/down</b> <b>wooden/plastic/metal</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Then we can try to use these words...</b></p> <p><b>moving</b> <b>past</b> <b>favourite</b> <b>electrical</b> <b>wind up</b></p> <p><b><u>Scientific words:</u></b> <b>forces</b> <b>push</b> <b>pull</b> <b>ramps</b> <b>backwards/forwards</b> <b>materials</b> <b>man-made, natural</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>We will learn about the composition of numbers up to 10.</p> <p>We will begin to combine two groups of everyday objects to find a total (early addition).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>We will read lots of different stories about toys such as 'The Everywhere Bear', 'Kippers Toybox' and 'Toys in Space'.</p> <p>We will read non-fiction books to find out information about toys today and in the past.</p> <p>We will label and write captions about toys.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p>We will explore different movements, change of speed.</p> <p>Balance on different points and patches</p>

<p>We will learn about capacity and weight.          We learn to name and describe 2D shapes.          We will also learn about length and height as well as the everyday language linked to time.</p>	<p>We will retell familiar stories linked to our topic.</p>	<p>Children to perform basic skill/actions, such as hopping, skipping, bending, or sliding and focus attention on how groups of muscles are pushing and pulling our bodies to execute the movement.</p>
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### How can you help at home?

This half term we will be learning about toys today and in the past. An information sheet will be sent out with homework to advise you of the key focus for each week, which will help you support your child's learning 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.

Could you please help by encouraging your child to hold their pencil or pen correctly when mark making. Encouraging them to draw as much as possible will also help your child to further develop their concentration, imagination and fine motor skills.

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.

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 sharing 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 update their learning journey with details of 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 holding our Library Sessions on a Friday morning every fortnight - please join us in our Library Area. We will also be running our Writing Workshop on 16.1.24 - please join us if you can. Please also remember that our next Early Years Coffee Morning will be our Easter themed one in March. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Online Learning

Please continue to look out for activities posted on Seesaw. 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 (now known as X)

We use X/Twitter to share learning, celebrate achievements and give information. You can find The Acorns on X/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 speak to a member of the Early Years Team or alternatively you can contact us via phone or email.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes and kind regards,

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