

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a lovely Spring Half Term break. It has been so wonderful to welcome the children back this week, they are making so much progress and are eager to learn. 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 'Houses and Homes'. Please see the topic web below for an overview of our learning this half term.

<p><b>Communication &amp; Language</b></p> <p>We will have the opportunity to learn lots of new vocabulary related to houses and homes e.g. the names of different types of homes (terraced, semi-detached bungalow etc.) and the parts of a home.</p> <p>We will also listen to and follow instructions making and creating things.</p> <p>We will listen to and retell different stories.</p> <p>We will also listen to and identify everyday noises around the home.</p>	<p><b>Understanding the World</b></p> <p>We will have the opportunity to explore materials and think about what different everyday objects are made out of.</p> <p>We will also learn about how homes have changed over time by comparing old and new buildings.</p> <p>We will explore Spring and learn how to look after the plants. We will go on a Spring Walk to look for signs of new life.</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>Expressive Art and Design</b></p> <p>We will learn songs related to our topic.</p> <p>We will draw, paint and make models of different types of homes and buildings.</p> <p>We will build small and large structures using large and small construction and junk modelling resources.</p> <p>We will also have the opportunity to play in the home corner and small world.</p>	<p><b><u>Our topic in F2 this half term is 'Homes'</u></b>  <b>Below are some new words that we want to learn.</b></p>		<p>We will also be learning about new life during Spring and Easter Time.</p> <p>We hope that you can all join us at our F2 Library Sessions this half term in our School Library. They will be held every two weeks on Friday morning between 8.15-8.45am on the following dates:</p> <p><b>8.3.24, 22.3.24</b></p> <p>Please join us for our <b>EYFS Easter Coffee Morning</b> is on <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b> from 9-10.30am in our school Hall. We will be selling handmade gifts, refreshments and the children will perform lots of fun Spring/Easter songs.</p>
	<p><b>First we can use these words...</b></p>	<p><b>Then we can try to use these words...</b></p>	
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>We will learn about the composition of numbers up to 5 and beyond. We learn about everyday 3D shapes in our environment by looking at everyday objects found at home. We will also make 2D shape pictures of different types of buildings. We will learn about odd and even house numbers, data handlings (types of houses we live in, how we get to school) as well as solving real life problems involving size, weight and money.</p>	<p><b>house</b>  <b>home</b>  <b>old/new</b>  <b>in the past</b>  <b>rooms</b>  <b>kitchen</b>  <b>bedroom</b>  <b>bathroom</b>  <b>living room</b>  <b>garden</b>  <b>plants</b>  <b>insects</b>  <b>animals</b>  <b>village</b>  <b>Barnsley (town)</b>  <b>country</b>  <b>world</b>  <b>feel</b></p>	<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>We will read a range of different fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our theme of homes such as The Three Little Pigs and The Gingerbread Man. We will read and follow simple instructions to help use make different tasty treats.</p> <p>We will have the opportunity to learn how to write shopping lists, label different objects, write a simple set of instructions and make little story books.</p> <p>We will continue to use our phonics to sound out words when writing them but will learn how to read and spell some tricky words like I, to, the, no, go.</p>	<p><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p>We will learn to use different equipment safely creating and building things. We will also practise using cutlery correctly.</p> <p>When the Spring Season is upon us, we will use a range of different equipment in the garden when sowing seeds and growing plants.</p>

### How can you help at home?

This half term we will be learning about homes today and in the past. 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. 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 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 holding our Library Sessions on a Friday morning every fortnight so please join us in our Library Area. Please also remember that our next Early Years Coffee Morning will be our Easter themed one on 21.3.24 so 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

We use Twitter (now known as X) to share learning, celebrate achievements and give information. You can find the Acorns on X @theellisf2, so please follow us. Please feel free to send us any key learning or achievements that your child has done outside of school.

If you have any questions, queries or worries 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 😊