

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a restful Easter Holiday. Once again, it has been so wonderful to welcome the children back and 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 Summer Term.

### PE

Our PE day is **Friday**. PE kits should be in school on this day for your child to participate.

### 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 bringing home either a Read Write Inc. book or ditty sheet to read. This will depend on their individual phonic development level. The books will be monitored closely to ensure they are returned. The books are still relatively new and have cost the school a substantial amount of money and we would appreciate your cooperation with this. Thank you.

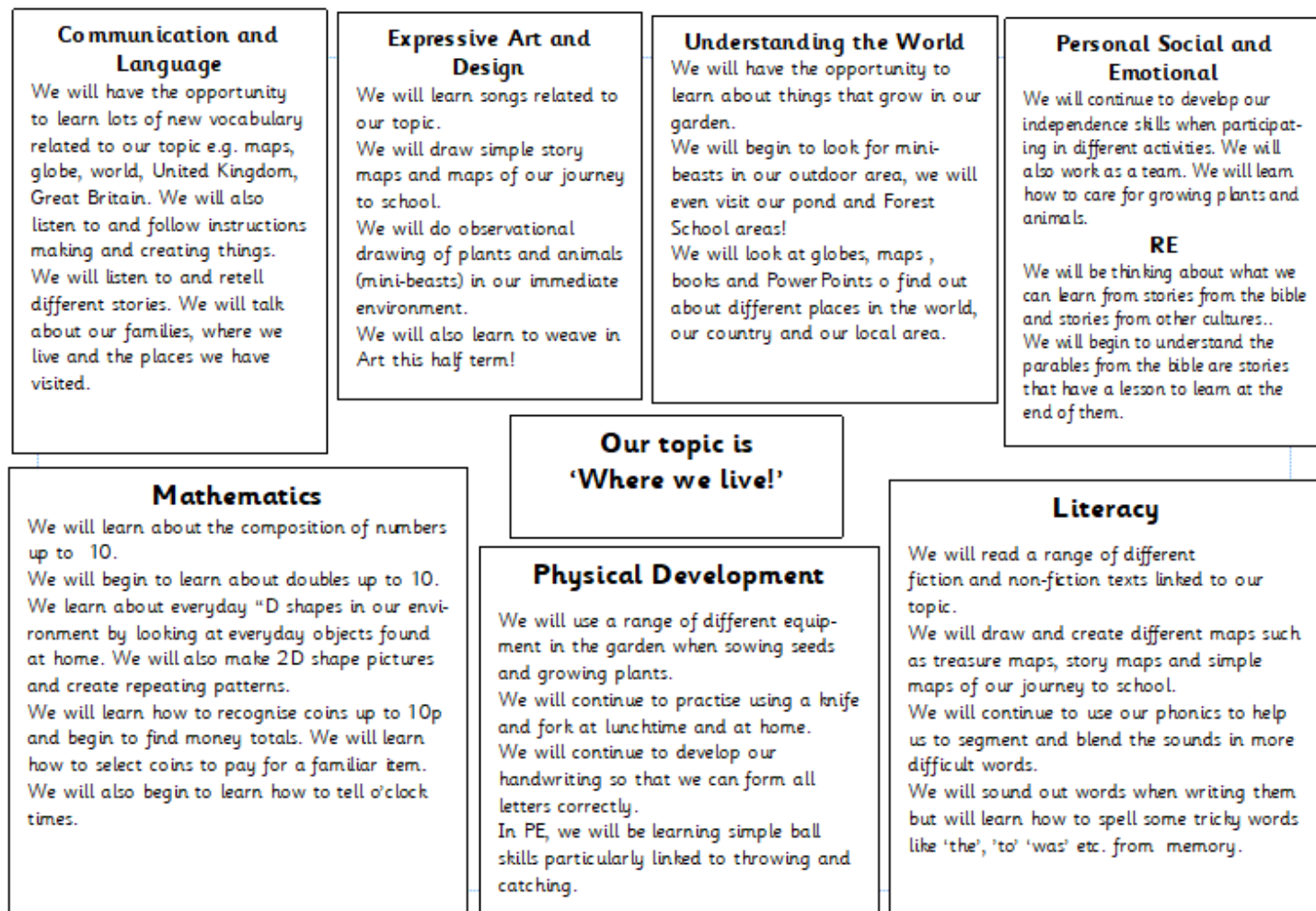
All the children should now have a reading diary in their red folders. Please make sure that you write in the diary at least once a week after listening to your children read. Your comments and feedback are an invaluable way of gauging how well your child is developing as an early reader. We will also award regular reading using our reward system in school.

### Foundation Phonics – Read Write Inc.

Please continue to support your child's phonic development by practising the letter sheets or reading materials sent home. We encourage the children to "Spot the Special Friends, Fred Talk then read the word". The High Frequency Word cards are based on our Red Words which are very tricky – "You can't always Fred a red". For this reason, we would like you to practise reading these words with your child by sight so that they remember them from memory.

## Topic

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



## How can you help at home?

This half term we will be learning about 'Where We Live'. An information sheet will be sent out with the homework so that you are aware of the key focus for each week that 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.

Please help your child with everyday Maths, such as telling them the time (o'clock) and using money. These skills are really important for later life.

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. Please join us in our Library Area for our Library Sessions on Friday morning every fortnight. Please also remember that our next Early Years Coffee Morning will be Summer themed in July and 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 😊