

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have had a wonderful Spring Bank Half Term. The children have made so much progress this last half term and, as always, we are keen to work with you as parents to ensure that the children's amazing learning journey can continue. If you do have any concerns or feel your child would benefit from additional support then please do get in touch or catch us at the beginning or end of the school.

Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you for the last half term of this academic year.

PE

Please remember that our PE day is **Friday**. PE kits should be in school on these days but may not be used as we will limit changing in school. PE will be outside where possible and appropriate.

EYFS Trip to the Seaside

To support our topic of 'Journeys', Mr Grayhurst and Mrs Pollard have planned a trip to Cleethorpes on Monday 1st July 2024 for all our children in the Early Years. We encourage parents to accompany their children where possible but we are able to take a small number of children unaccompanied. You should have already received an email giving you further details of how to give parental consent to attend the trip and how to pay. However, please be aware that the cut off date for this payment is Friday 14th June and if we are unable to raise enough funds, we will have no other option than to cancel the trip.

We have also rescheduled our Elsecar Park Trip to Monday 15th July. Please return the consent slip to let us know if you and your child are able to attend.

Outdoor learning

Our outdoor environment is a key part of learning in our Early Years Curriculum and we therefore take every opportunity to access our outdoor area as much as possible. This means that your child will need appropriate footwear and clothing every day. Please ensure your child has some wellies and a waterproof coat to wear each day. As the weather improves, your child will need a sunhat and we also ask that you apply sun cream before coming to school on days that are particularly hot and sunny.

Reading Books

Your child will continue to take home a Read Write Inc. book linked to their individual phonic level each week. These will be monitored to ensure they are returned. The books are new and have cost the school a substantial amount of money so we would appreciate your cooperation with this. Reading continues to be a big focus at The Ellis as it is such a key skill to master. Please talk to a member of our Foundation Stage Team if you have any question about reading with your child, we are always happy to help and support. 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.

Foundation Phonics – Read Write Inc.

Your child will continue to participate in a daily Read Write Inc. sessions to further develop and secure their ability to Fred Talk and read words. The sessions also help children to write words using their Fred Fingers e.g. "Show me three Fred Fingers. Say the word cat, pinch the sounds c-a-t, write the word!"

Below are some useful videos that you may want to watch to support your child at home:

- How to pronounce the Set 1 and Set 2 sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yln6PpV1G1I>
- Understanding RWI Phonics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbWlujM1WGM>
- Reading phonic books with your child: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07DrukFskw>
- Why read with your child: <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/30sAQvDQ/sEzBYPIr>

Our topic for this term is 'Journeys'. Below is an overview of the learning we will be doing in school.

<p>Prime Area: Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> <p>We will continue to develop our independence skills when participating in different activities.</p> <p>We will also work as a team.</p> <p>We will talk about personal journeys for day trips or holiday destinations.</p> <p>RE</p> <p>We will be thinking about what makes certain places special to us.</p> <p>We will look at different places in our world and the similarities and differences between homes in different countries.</p> <p>We will also look at different places of worship including churches, mosques and synagogues.</p>	<p>Prime Area: Communication and Language</p> <p>We will recount past experiences of going on a journey e.g. a day trip, a visit to the shops etc.</p> <p>We will use time sequence vocabulary when recalling events e.g. first, next, then, after that.</p> <p>We will continue to learn new poems and rhymes as well as joining in with the refrain (repeated lines) of a familiar story.</p> <p>We will learn lots of new words from our new topic including: <i>journey, travel, transport, holiday, vacation, destination, country, globe, atlas, world, map</i></p>	<p>Prime Area: Physical Development</p> <p>We will learn to move in different ways when travelling on a pretend journey.</p> <p>We will have the opportunity to participate in simple obstacle courses activities.</p> <p>We will access the large apparatus on the field and in PE sessions.</p> <p>We will also work on correct letter formation.</p>
	<p>Journeys</p>	<p>Specific Area: Literacy (L)</p> <p>We will read a range of different fiction and non-fiction texts linked to our theme of travelling and transport such as the Train Ride, We're going on a Bear Hunt and Rosie's Walk.</p> <p>We will create signs for the small world or the role-play area.</p> <p>We will have the opportunity to write postcards and story maps and maps of simple journeys.</p>
<p>Specific Area: Expressive Arts and Design</p> <p>We will have the opportunity to play with small world transport such as the pirate ship or the train set.</p> <p>We will create 3D models of different types of transport such as aeroplanes.</p> <p>We will design different types of maps e.g. treasure map, map of a journey.</p> <p>We will learn and sing new songs linked to our topic.</p>	<p>Specific Area: Understanding the World</p> <p>We will talk about everyday transport e.g. how we get to school.</p> <p>We will find out about vehicles today and in the past.</p> <p>We will learn how life is a journey through finding out about the life-cycle of different animals including mini-beasts.</p> <p>We will explore floating and sinking when playing</p>	<p>Specific Area: Mathematics</p> <p>We will learn about positional language such as on, under, behind etc.</p> <p>We will also use ordinal numbers when playing racing games i.e. who is 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.</p> <p>We will learn to recall doubles up to 5+5 and find pairs of numbers that make 10 e.g. 2 and 8, 3 and 7, 4 and 6 etc.</p> <p>We learn about everyday 3D shapes in our environment by looking at everyday objects around us e.g. an orange is a sphere.</p> <p>We will solve problems in real life situation e.g. using money, telling the time etc.</p>

Home Learning

Your child will continue to bring home their 'Home Learning' book. Please remember that this is an important 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 us a message telling us about it.

How can you help at home?

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.

Give your child plenty of opportunity to use scissors and show them how to cut properly if they need support.

Please remember that being able to use a knife and fork is now a key expectation by the end of the Reception Year. Please help your child to learn how to use a knife and fork at meal times.

Encourage them to draw as much as possible—this helps to develop children's concentration, imagination and fine motor skills.

Ensure that they understand the importance of brushing their teeth at least twice a day and after meals if possible.

Everyday opportunities for reading e.g. signs and labels in the everyday environment, instructions when playing a game, bus/train timetables when you are out and about. Please remember to use the home diary book to share any exciting trips or events that are happening this Summer Term.

Everyday opportunities for writing e.g. sending postcards when on a day trip or weekend away, writing a list of things needed when going on a shopping/day trip or picnic, leaving a note for someone when popping out etc.

Everyday maths opportunities e.g. telling the time (at 11 o'clock we are going to the zoo, in 10 minutes we will get to the seaside), using money (buying a snack, paying for an admission ticket to the farm/cinema), everyday solid shapes (a can of soup is a cylinder shape), reinforcing the days of the week (In two days time it will be... On Sunday we will visit... How many more days until...?)

Letter formation continues to be a key focus for this term. We will also be working on how to form the numbers 1 to 9 correctly. Please help by showing your child how to form letters or numbers correctly when completing any written homework. Please continue to encourage your child to hold a pencil correctly using a tripod grip (between their thumb and first two fingers).

Twitter

We use Twitter to share learning, celebrate achievements and give information. You can find the The Acorn Class 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 feel free to catch Mr Grayhurst or Mrs Beevers at the start or end of the school day. You can also get in touch via the phone or email if this is more convenient for you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr Grayhurst and Mrs Beevers ☺