

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

We are very looking forward to welcoming your children back to school and we hope that they are excited 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 **Wednesday**. 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 are expecting a change in the weather.

Foundation Phonics – Read Write Inc.

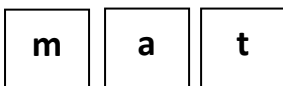
Each child takes part in a daily lesson to develop basic phonic skills in reading and writing. Every week, each child's sight words will be checked and where appropriate, 4 more words will be sent home to learn.

Each child will have letter sounds added to their individual key rings 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. phonic 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 Read Write Inc. phonic activities on our learning platform See-Saw to practise their oral blending skills.

We also send home a 'key ring' 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 'Me and My Family'. Please see the topic web below for an overview of our learning this half term.

<p style="text-align: center;">Expressive Art and Design</p> <p>Music: Being Imaginative Children will sing and perform nursery rhymes.</p> <p>Art & Design: Creating with Materials Drawing Skills: Children will explore mark making and begin to draw in more detail.</p> <p>In class we will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> drawing pictures of ourselves using mirrors draw pictures of our families learning to use colours appropriately playing in our home-corner learning new songs to help us with our learning 	<p style="text-align: center;">Understanding the World</p> <p>History: Past and Present Children will know about their own life story and how they have changed.</p> <p>Geography: People, Culture and Communities Children will know about features of the immediate environment.</p> <p>Science: The Natural World Children will understand the terms 'same' and 'different'.</p> <p>In class we will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognising similarities and differences between each other learning about how we grow and change over time going on walks around our school environment learning about different parts of the body 	<p style="text-align: center;">Personal Social and Emotional Self-Regulation</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>Managing Self Children will learn to wash their hands independently.</p> <p>Building Relationships Children will seek support from adults and gain confidence to speak to peers and adults.</p> <p>RE We will be learning about what makes people special. The children will learn why Jesus is a special role model for Christians.</p> <p>In class we will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning routines of the school day learning to think about the feelings of others learning and talking about our families and other people who are important to us learning to try new activities independently and selecting resources independently
<p style="text-align: center;">Communication and Language</p> <p>Listening, Attention and Understanding Children will be able to understand how to listen carefully and know why it is important.</p> <p>Speaking Children will talk in front of small groups and their teacher offering their own ideas.</p> <p>In class we will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> talking about ourselves and our families we will be listening and responding to questions and comments imagining and recreating roles in our home corner and small world retelling familiar stories using words from story books 	<p>Our topic in F2 this half term</p> <p>'Me and My Family'</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;">Mathematics</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>In class we will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> joining in with Mastering Number sessions singing number songs learning to count on our fingers up to 5 learning about the numbers 1, 2 and 3. Learning to subitise – "no need to count, see the amount!" 	<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Development</p> <p>Gross Motor Children will learn to move safely in a space and introductory PE lesson will focus on developing this basic skill.</p> <p>Fine Motor 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>In class we will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accessing 'funky fingers' activities using tools safely e.g. scissors, playdough tools learning how to keep healthy learning how to participate in a PE lesson using a range of small and large equipment during outdoor play 	<p style="text-align: center;">Literacy</p> <p>Comprehension Children will learn how to look at a book, hold it the correct way and turn the pages.</p> <p>Word Reading Children will segment and blend sounds in simple words orally.</p> <p>Writing Children will give meanings to the marks they make.</p> <p>In class we will be...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning to recognise and write our names independently learning to give meaning to the marks we make e.g. drawing a picture of a familiar objects, person or event participating in a daily phonics lesson to begin to learn how to identify the 24 single letter sounds learning to blend the sounds in words orally

How can you help your child at home?

This half term we will be learning about Me and My Family. We will think about our similarities and differences, how we grow and change over time and talking about who are in our families. 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. 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 homelearning folder this week. Also, could you please ensure that you take the time to show and support your child on how 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 us 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 Mrs Dodd or Mrs Fiddes our school secretaries on office@theellis.org

Online Learning

As a school we are now using Class Dojo as a means of sharing our class learning journey with you. Our school office will send you invitations to join our Class Dojo page so please look out for the email.

Later in the year, (during the Summer 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 so crucial to your child's early development. We will be reintroducing our 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 also be on sale.

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 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

