

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year. We hope that you have had a lovely Christmas holiday. It has been so wonderful to welcome the children back this week, 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.

PE

Our PE day is **Wednesday**. PE kits should be in school on this day. PE will be outside where possible and appropriate.

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 See-Saw 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 so we would appreciate your cooperation with this. Thank you.


We will reintroduce 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 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. Please note that we will replace completed diaries but 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 access the phonics activities on See-Saw. We will have a focus on helping all our children to blend the sounds in words so that they are able to Fred Talk and identify/read words successfully.

Topic

Our topic this half term is 'Food'. 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>Draw recognisable and representations of objects, people, animals and familiar events that can be identified by others. Begin to draw in more detail when engaged in observational drawing. Represent ideas, movements, noises and feelings with growing confidence when drawing independently.</p> <p>We will learn how to make and prepare food by listening to and following instructions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Understanding the World</p> <p>We will use our senses to explore different foods. To begin understand that there are different food groups and that we need to eat a balanced diet to stay healthy. To understand that in Winter the weather becomes colder and the days get shorter. Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries. Explore the natural world around them. To know that there are four seasons in the year and understand the seasonal changes that Winter brings. To begin to identify some early signs of Spring. To know that there are different places and countries around the world. To explore the similarities and differences between life in different countries.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Personal Social and Emotional</p> <p>We will learn to take turns when playing games. We will work as a team when participating in different activities. We will talk about the morals of different stories. We will learn to keep our classroom rules. We will also learn about staying safe in the dark.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RE</p> <p>To begin to understand how we celebrate the start of the New Year and why it is important. To recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. To know some similarities and differences between different cultural traditions and customs in this country and around the world. i.e. The Chinese and Persian New Year, Holi. To develop an understanding of how the Chinese community celebrate the Chinese New Year in this country and around the world. To develop an understanding of how people celebrate the Persian New Year. To show an understanding of the traditions and customs linked to Holi (A Hind Festival)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Communication and Language</p> <p>We will learn new words related to our topic. Use adjectives to describe the texture and taste of different foods. Speak in full sentences of at least 8 or more words. To ask simple questions to find out more. Listen and respond appropriately to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion. Links statements and sticks to a main theme or intention. Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives Talk about an event in more detail.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Our topic this half term is 'Food'</p> 	<p>During this half term we will also be learning about Winter! As we move into February we will begin thinking about the first signs of Spring and the changes that brings!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mathematics</p> <p>We will learn about the composition of numbers up to 10. We will begin to use combine two groups of everyday objects to find a total (early addition). We will learn about capacity and weight. We will also learn about length and height as well as the everyday language linked to time.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Development</p> <p>Travels with confidence and skill around, under, over and through when balancing and climbing on equipment. Revise and refine different ways of moving e.g. rolling, walking, running, skipping, crawling, jumping hopping, climbing.</p> <p>Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials. To begin to use tools appropriately. Hold a pencil in a comfortable and appropriate grip – usually between thumb and first two fingers (tripod).</p> <p>Use anti-clockwise movements in their mark-making. To form some letter shapes correctly. To form recognisable letters.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Literacy</p> <p>We will listen and respond to different rhymes and stories linked to our topic such as Handa's Surprise, Oliver's Vegetables, The Enormous Turnip and The Gingerbread Man.</p> <p>Reading Understand that words are made up of a group of letters representing those sounds. Begin to blend individual letter sounds into words (CV and CVC words) and read them with support. Segments and blend the sounds in simple words to read them independently.</p> <p>Writing Gives meaning to all marks that they make Break down the flow of speech into words Begin to identify letters and write recognisable letters in sequence when writing longer words To segment the sounds in words when writing VC and CVC words</p>

How can you help at home?

Here are some other ways you could help your child 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.

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.

Count at every opportunity, emphasising how we point to each object and say a number to find out how many things there are in a given set of objects.

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

Show them how to use a knife and fork when you are eating a meal.

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.

Go on walks and encourage them to run, climb and balance.

Encourage them to get dressed on their own. Show them how to turn their coat sleeves the right way around, how to zip up their coat and put on a pair of gloves.

Show them how to put tights or socks on properly.

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 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. Our next one will be our Easter Coffee Morning on Friday 28th March at 9am so we look forward to seeing you there!

Milk Scheme

Please remember that as your child reaches the term that they are 5 they will no longer automatically be entitled to free school milk. Should you wish to register your child for milk please visit **School Milk UK** online and search for our school. School Milk offer various payment options and you can choose the amount you wish to pay and the payment process appears quick and easy. If you have any queries regarding registering for milk, please contact School Milk directly on 0800 321 3248.

Online Learning

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.

If you have any questions, queries or worries then please get in touch via the phone or email and we will endeavour to help you in any way that we can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr Grayhurst and Mrs Beevers