

Dear F2 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the final half term of our school year. We hope that you have all had a lovely Spring Bank Holiday. We have got lots of exciting learning ahead for your children this half term. Below is some information which we hope will be helpful to you.

### Milk Scheme

As we are now in the final term of Reception, none of our children are eligible for 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.

### PE

Our PE day will continue to be every **Wednesday**. PE kits should be in school on this day. Please remember that PE kits should consist of a white T Shirt and black shorts.

### 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 are now taking home a Read Write Inc. book linked to their individual phonic level. These will be monitored to ensure they are returned each week. These books are still relatively new and have cost the school a substantial amount of money so we know that we have your support in looking after these books when you are reading them at home with your children.

All children should now have a reading diary in their red Home Learning Folder. If you haven't got one or have lost it then please see Mr Grayhurst or Mrs Beevers. 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.

In addition to RWI reading books, your child will continue to take home two High Frequency Words each week. These words need to be learned by sight so please practise this as regularly as you can. If you have any queries about how to support your child then please see a member of the F2 Team.

## Topic

Our topic this half term is 'Traditional Tales'. Please see the topic web below for an overview of our learning this half term.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Expressive Art and Design</b></p> <p>We will learn songs related to our topic. We will draw, paint and make models based on different stories. Our focus this half term the children will engage in lots of fun craft activities to develop their cutting, threading, joining and folding skills.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Understanding the World</b></p> <p>We will have the opportunity to find out how the different British wildlife around us. Plant a seed, watch it grow and talk about the main things that plants need to grow e.g. water, light, sun, nutrients, air, space. To talk about and understand the life-cycle of a plant or animals. Children will know about the past through settings and characters. Children will know that people in other countries may speak different languages.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Personal Social and Emotional</b></p> <p><b>Self-Regulation</b> Children will be able to follow instructions of three steps or more.</p> <p><b>Managing Self</b> Children will show a 'can do' attitude. Children will understand the importance of healthy food choices.</p> <p><b>Building Relationships</b> Children will have the confidence to communicate with adults around the school.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RE</b></p> <p><b><i>What makes places special?</i></b> To understand what makes a home a special place. To recognise the similarities and differences between homes around the world. To understand what makes our world such a special place. To identify and talk about places and locations that are special to us. To understand that Churches, Mosques and Synagogues are important to different religious communities.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communication and Language</b></p> <p>We will learn new words related to our topic and use adjectives to describe characters and stories. We will develop our narrative skills so that we can talk about real life experiences and retell familiar stories. We will practise speaking in full sentences that are mainly grammatically correct. Children will be able to understand a question such as who, what, where, when, why and how. Children will use talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Our topic this half term is</u></b> <b><u>'Traditional Tales'</u></b></p> 	<p>During this half term doing lots of outdoor learning linked to our topic of minibeasts. Please ensure that your children are prepared for sunnier and hotter weather i.e. they are wearing sun-cream and bring sun hats, water bottles to school .</p>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p><i>Children will learn to:</i> Recognise amount of objects without counting up to at least 6.  Double numbers up to 5+5.  Find pairs of numbers that make 5 then 10 e.g. 2 and 3, 1 and 4.  Count up to 10 objects correctly with 1:1 matching.  Practise writing numbers 1-9 correctly.  Develop verbal counting up to at least 20 (say the number names in order 1-20)  Explore the characteristics of 2D and 3D shapes  Begin to talk about time and begin to recognise o'clock times.</p>	<p><b>Physical Development</b></p> <p><b><i>Gross Motor</i></b> Children will move safely with confidence and imagination, communicating ideas through movement.</p> <p><b><i>Fine Motor</i></b> Children will hold scissors correctly and cut out small shapes.</p>	<p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>We will read lot of Tradition and Fairy Tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs.</p> <p><b><i>Comprehension</i></b> Children will be able to answer questions about what they have read.</p> <p><b><i>Word Reading</i></b> Children will read aloud simple sentences from books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge including some common exception words.</p> <p><b><i>Writing</i></b> Children will write simple phrases and sentences using recognisable letters and sounds.</p>

## How can you help at home?

Here are some other ways you could help your child at home:

- Letter formation is a main focus for this half term as it is a key expectation that children can form letters correctly by the end of the 'Reception Year'. Please help by showing your child how to form letters correctly when writing their name or completing any written homework. It would also be really helpful if you could please encourage your child to hold a pencil correctly using a tripod grip (between their thumb and first two fingers). It is very important that you show your child how to form letters properly as it is very easy for children to get into bad habits which are hard to undo. It is a key expectation that children can form letters correctly by the end of F2 so your help and support with this is vital.
- Look for mini-beasts and different wildlife in your local environment.
- 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.
- Practise finding pairs of numbers that make 10.
- 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.
- Lots of children are still having difficulty using cutlery. Please show them how to use a knife and fork when they are eating meals at home. We support them at school as much as we can but this is a skill that is mainly learned at home and it is important that the children master this.
- Encourage them to draw as much as possible—this helps to develop children's concentration, imagination and fine motor skills.

## 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.

## Summer Coffee Morning

We hope that you can join us at our next Coffee Morning. The children will perform songs and homemade gifts will also be on sale. Our next one will be our Summer Coffee Morning on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 9am-10.30am** so we look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, queries or worries then please get see a member of our team at the beginning or end of the school day or get in touch via the phone or email. We are here to help and we will always make time to speak to you as all queries or concerns are important to us.

Thank you for your continued support, we really appreciate it!

Best wishes and kind regards,

*Mr Grayhurst & Mrs Beevers*