

Our half-termly topic

This half-term our topic is 'Where we live'.

We will be looking at a globe and telling our friends all that we know about our world. We will be looking at a map of Great Britain, finding out more about where we live.

We will be talking about The United Kingdom, learning about our King, where he lives and landmarks in London, our currency and our flag.

We will then be telling our friends all about where we live. What street do we live on? What is our house number? What type of house do we live in? (The children might need a bit of help from you to know these details).

We will be talking about how we get to school- do we walk? Drive? Catch a bus? The children will be drawing a map of how they get to school and the things they see on the way.

We will be talking about local landmarks such as Elsecar Heritage Centre, Elsecar Park, Playmania, Wentworth Garden Centre and Barnsley Town Hall.

We will also be looking at our local environment- Hemingfield. We will look at some photos of Hemingfield such as the school, School Street and the entrance into school, the cross roads, the Chippy, post office and the park. We will tell our friends all that we know about each photo.

Our RE theme is 'which places are special and why?' We will discuss places that are special to us all (such as our homes) and why they are special. We will be looking at photos of a church, talking about the pews, font, lectern, stained glass windows and cross. We will also be looking at and talking about what a mosque is and what makes a mosque a special place for Muslim people.

Our PE sessions will focus on 'Games'. We will be pretending we are in the Polar Station where we have to kick the snowballs into the ice caves (of course we will be using footballs and cones for this activity!) When we are in the Australian Outback we will be practicing throwing the food into the kangaroo's mouth (or beanbags into a hoop!) When we visit India we will be pretending we are elephants, using our trunks to collect food (or tennis balls into a bucket!)

Our art topic for this ½ term is 'Sculptures'. Before we begin to make our clay models we will practice making models using playdough. We will touch and squeeze clay, talking about how it feels. Is it the same or different to playdough? We will look at some pre-make clay sculptures, talking about what we like or dislike about them. We will look at and practice using clay tools and finally, we will then make our own sculptures from clay.

General Information:

Morning nursery begins at 8.45am. If your child comes to school late and the gates are locked, please take them to the reception office and they will be brought into nursery by a member of the office staff.

The session for part time morning children finishes at 11.45am. Please wait for your child at the nursery gates and a member of staff will send them out to you as soon as they are ready.

Full time children will need a healthy packed lunch (please do not send food with any nut content and grapes and large blueberries will need to be cut in half) or a school prepared dinner.

The afternoon nursery session begins at 12.30pm - 3.30pm. These children will need to have eaten their lunch at home before the session begins. Please wait at the red school gate (enter from School Street) and a member of staff will collect your child from there.

Nursery finishes at 3.30pm. Please wait at the nursery gates and a member of staff will send your child out to you. Parents can pick their nursery child up earlier if their siblings are in a class with an earlier finish time.

'Where we live' - Foundation Stage 1 Newsletter- April 2026

Please send your child with a bottle of water in a labelled water bottle for them to access throughout the day. It will be sent home each day to be cleaned and returned the next day.

Nursery library will be held in the school library every 2nd Thursday 8.15am - 8.40am. We hope you can come along, choose a story and read with your child. Children learn so much language from these sessions and reading for pleasure is so important to all of our children. We will email you to remind you of the dates we will be holding these library sessions.

Your child will need a pair of wellies for outdoor playtime. The field can sometimes become quite wet and muddy, yet the children still love to be out there! This will also help keep indoor shoes clean and carpets mud-free!

If the weather is cold please send a warm coat, hat and gloves if necessary. If it is hot a sun hat is essential. Sun cream should not be brought into nursery. Appropriate factor sun cream should be applied at home instead.

Please remember to sign up to ClassDojo to see what we have been doing in nursery.

As usual, if anyone different is to pick your child up from Nursery, or you are going to be later than expected, please let a member of staff know, or give the school a ring. Also, please could you collect your child promptly at 11.45am or 3.30pm for full time children. Thank you.

How can you help at home?

Ask your child what they have been doing at nursery. Talk to them about what they enjoy doing.

Sing rhymes and songs. Ask them about their favourite songs. Tell them about your favourite songs.

Talk to your child. Ask them questions. Language development is everything at this age!

Read, read, read! Ask questions about the main characters, where the stories are set and what happens in the story.

Count at every opportunity. Show them 'how many' using their fingers.

Encourage them to mark make every day. Let them draw on the paths using buckets of water and brushes or chalks. Let them see you writing. Explain what you are writing (give writing a purpose).

Point out letters, numbers and shapes in the environment.

Build up their language through pretend play.

Show them how to use scissors – snipping paper is a good start.

Encourage them to get dressed on their own. Show them how to put tights and socks on.

Show them how to turn their coat sleeves the right way around. Show them how to zip their coat up on their own.

Go on walks. Let them run, climb and balance.

Encourage them to eat a varied diet.

Ensure they know the importance of brushing their teeth twice each day and after meals if possible.

Thank you for your support

From Mrs Pollard and the F1 team