

Spring Term 1

FSU Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/carers,

Happy New year and best wishes for 2023! Thank you to everyone who has expressed to us how much they enjoyed the FSU Nativity at the end of last term - we were very proud of the children's achievements - as I'm sure you all were too.

We had a very positive start to our new term last week and were delighted to welcome our new Nursery children who have settled extremely well. Some of our new starters have previously attended Toddler Group in The FSU with their parents/carers and it is wonderful to see them adapting, exploring the setting independently and beginning to make friends. We are very pleased that we are able to offer this opportunity to our families and it is lovely to see the benefit to the children.

Our topic this half term is 'Old MacDonald's Farm'. Our Nursery children will be developing their understanding of what they will see on a farm, with a priority, as always, on supporting them to develop their language. We will be reading and role playing lots of wonderful stories about farms and farm animals and sparking creativity in our artwork, singing, dancing and constructing!

Reception Farm Project

During the term, our Reception children will be working in groups to investigate farm animals and why the farmer looks after these animals. After establishing what they already know, the children will be encouraged and supported to research and answer their own key questions. Their research will involve a number of information finding techniques, the outcome of which they will use to produce their own group's Lift the Flap, Non Fiction Book.

Reception Trip to Essebeare Farm

We are looking for 2 parent helpers to accompany our Reception class on this trip and would love to hear from anyone who would be willing to volunteer their time to help us. The trip will take place on the morning of Tuesday 24th January. Further details about the trip will follow separately.

Reception and Tadpoles Home Learning Task - building a diorama farm

This is a task which we encourage all the children to have a go at and hope you will support them. Building a diorama is an easy and enjoyable project which basically means you create a scene using a cardboard box. This task is to build a farm or any aspect of farming. It could be decorated on the outside or inside

or both. I have included a few pictures below to show you the sort of thing you might like to use for ideas. The most important thing is that the children are able to talk about how they made their diorama farm, and most importantly of all, that they enjoy it. We ask that the children bring their diorama into school at any point during the half term. Our Nursery Tadpoles (those who will start Reception in September 23) are also very welcome to create a diorama if they would like to.

Reception Art and DT

Our theme this half term is Weaving and this will be tied in with our Farm topic learning by using sheep wool. We will also be cooking and baking using farm produce.

Reception Sharing Our Learning Session with Parents/carers

We will be inviting parents/carers of Reception children into the FSU, to share the our half term's Topic learning, on Wednesday 8th February from 8.45am. This is an opportunity to share your child's learning with you, however it is entirely optional and the children will be supported to understand that not all parents/carers will be able to attend due to work commitments. If you are unable to attend and would like to arrange to share your child's learning at another time, please let me know. I will endeavour to facilitate this.

FSU Phonics & Literacy

This term our Nursery children will be continuing to develop their skills in listening and attention and differentiating between sounds.

Meanwhile, our Reception children will be continuing to follow the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme. Please continue to support your child at home by ensuring that they read to you *at least 4 times a week*. I cannot emphasize the enough, the importance of this to your child's progress.

FSU Favourite Books

We have at least one story time each day and we are inviting the children to bring one of their favourite books to share with the class. Books relating to The Farm are particularly welcome this half term, however, we will do our best to find time in our week to read any favourite stories which the children would like to share with us.

FSU Maths

Our Nursery children will be counting, subsiding (recognising quantity without counting - for example on a dice) and beginning to learn about composition of numbers.

Meanwhile our Maths learning for Reception children will include 'Alive in 5', 'Growing 6,7,8' and 'Building 8 and 10'. These will involve recognising, comparing and combining numbers to develop a depth of understanding.

Reception PE

All Reception children will require their PE kit every Wednesday. The children should arrive in school wearing their PE on this day. Given the time of year, it is helpful for them to have joggers which will keep them warm while on their way to school and in the playground at break and lunchtime. The children will change into their school uniform after PE.

There is no Farm or Forest School for Reception children this half term.

Reception PSHE

Our learning this half term is based on 'Dreams and goals'. The children will take part in activities which are designed to help them develop skills in staying motivated and to continue trying when challenges are difficult. We will also be thinking about what makes us successful when working together in groups and pairs.

Our School Value this half term is Perseverance.

Supporting your child's learning at home

Please add anything that relates to any of this learning or any 'Wow Moments' that your children have at home to Tapestry - we love to see and hear about their learning and achievements and to give the children an opportunity to share these with their friends.

Myself and the FSU staff are very much looking forward to supporting, encouraging and celebrating your child's development and thank you for supporting your child's learning at home. As always, please just let me know if you would like any further information or would like to discuss anything with me.

Kind regards

Mrs North and the FSU Team.

Farmyard Dioramas

