

Autumn Term 1
FSU Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/carers,

It was wonderful to welcome the children back into The FSU last week - we were delighted with how well they settled in. It has been lovely to hear about the fun and adventures which they have had during their Summer break and we have enjoyed getting to know those children who have been joining us for the first time this term. The theme of our Story Times and learning last week was Teddies - many of us have teddies or similar soft toys which are very special to us and thinking about these provided a context for understanding just how very special, amazing and precious the children all are too - which forms the basis of our topic work this term.

Marvellous Me!

Our topic this half term is 'Marvellous Me!' We have begun by learning about our body's five senses and recognising and talking about the range of emotions which we feel - with an emphasis on settling in and the importance of feeling that we belong, as well as the importance of following the rules and routines of our FSU. Throughout the term we will support the children to make good choices in their behaviour and there will be a focus on being helpful, kind and thoughtful. We will think about the similarities which we share with each other and celebrate the differences which make us, our families and our homes all special and unique. We will also think about the importance of friendship and how people in our families, school and local community are important and can help us, as well as why the mistakes we make can be embraced and celebrated.

We will be prepare for our Harvest Festival in October and, during the second part of the term, we will be learning more about Autumn. We will observe the seasonal changes in the world around us, thinking about how we can help to look after our natural environment. During this time, we will also learn about the various celebrations which take place at this time of year such as Guy Fawkes, Remembrance Day, Diwali and, of course, as Winter approaches, we will look forward to learning about The Story of Christmas.

Our School Values during the Autumn Term are: Thankfulness and Compassion.

Phonics & Literacy

This term our Nursery children will be playing games and doing activities that help them develop their listening, rhythm and rhyme skills. Meanwhile, our Reception children will be introduced to Read Write Inc (RWI) and will begin learning Set 1 sounds and developing skills in blending and segmenting sounds to read and write short words. This is a very important and exciting stage in your Reception child's Early Years education and we hope that you will enjoy accompanying and supporting them on their journey. We will be holding our Phonics Information Evening for parents within the next few weeks so please check the calendar in the weekly school newsletter for this, and other key dates.

Maths

Our maths learning in The FSU involves a wide range of activities and challenges both inside and outside. The themes of our learning this term will include matching, sorting and comparing size, mass and capacity as well as exploring patterns and shapes. Alongside these, we will be supporting the children in developing their understanding of the five principals of counting.

Art

Our theme this term is Printing and this will be tied in with our 'Marvellous Me!' topic work as we use parts of our bodies and natural objects to create artwork.

Forest School, Farm School and PE (Reception Children only)

All Reception children will have an opportunity to take part in two half-terms of Forest School over the course of the year. This will take place on Friday afternoons and you will be informed by e-mail when it is your child's turn, in order that they can bring old clothes.

All children will also have two visits to Esselbeare farm to take part in Farm School activities. Again, you will be informed when this will take place for your child.

Wellie Boots: The children are required to wear wellies for Forest School and Farm School. They also wear wellies *every day* to access learning activities on the grass in our Outdoor Learning area. There is a wellie rack where their named wellies can be kept during the week - most families of children in

Reception find it helpful to leave these there during the week or throughout the term and we encourage this.

PE Kit: All Reception children will require their PE kit every Friday. The children should arrive in school wearing their PE kit. They will then change into either their school uniform or their Forest School clothes. They may get changed after lunch, therefore, as the weather get colder, it is helpful for them to wear joggers or leggings which will keep them warm while in the playground at lunchtime.

Sharing Our Learning with Parents/carers

Reception: We will be inviting parents/carers of Reception children into the FSU, to share our half term's Topic learning, on Friday 20th October 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.

If your child makes achievements in activities which they take part in outside of school (e.g. swimming lessons, sports etc.), then we would love to hear about these. Likewise, we would love to celebrate any significant learning or projects which they have completed at home.

Nursery: Logging into Tapestry is the ideal way to see what your child enjoys during their time with us. Please add anything that relates to any of their 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 in the year ahead. If you have any queries about your child's school life or would like to discuss any aspect of your child's wellbeing with us, please let me know.

Kind regards
Mrs North and the FSU Team.