

FSU Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/carers,

We have begun the term learning about Spring, and in particular, noticing the flowers and blossom which are emerging in the world around us and thinking about the different parts of plants and the important role each part plays in their lifecycle. We will continue to learn about the change of season as the term progresses and look forward to the months ahead when we will discover all that Summer brings!

Our topic in the FSU for the Term is 'Caring, Sharing, Daring!' We will begin by reading story books involving mythical superheroes and then move on to learn about real life superheroes who help us (e.g. The Emergency Services). As we move towards the end of the school year we will finish by appreciating that the children themselves are Superheros - we will reflect upon all that they have achieved throughout the school year and support them to recognise that they are now ready to move on to their next year group.

Information about the plans we have in place to support our Froglets cohort and their families with their transition to become Reception Frogs will follow separately. We will, of course, also be preparing to say goodbye to our current Reception Frogs as they graduate from the FSU, ready for the next adventure on their learning journey in Key Stage 1.

Reception PSHE

During PSHE lessons, our Reception children will be learning about how we make good friendships, and in particular, the importance of maintaining friendships by being able to overcome difficulties when they arise and how to help ourselves and others if we are upset or hurt. As we move towards the end of the school year, we will discuss our feelings towards the changes we notice in ourselves, those around us, and in our changing circumstances. We will address worries and concerns around change and talk about how and who can help us with any worries we may have.

Our School Values for this term are Friendship and Courage.

Reception Art and DT

The theme for our Art this term is Sculpture - we will be using paper mache to create superheroes using plastic bottles. Our DT project will link to promoting wellbeing.

FSU Phonics & Literacy

Our Nursery children will continue to develop their skills in listening and attention. As our Froglets begin to prepare for their transition to Reception, we will introduce a 'sound of the week'. Information about how you can help prepare your child for learning to read and write in Reception will be covered in our Information Evening for Parents and Carers of New Starters. Further information about this will follow separately. In the meantime, sharing and enjoying books together with your child is the single most

important thing you can do to support your child's learning during their Early Years and beyond. Ideally your child should have the opportunity to share a book with a grown-up every day. It is immensely beneficial to talk to your child about the stories you read with them and ask questions i.e. what has happened so far, what might happen next? What does the word..... mean? How is... (the character) feeling - how do you know? What is the character thinking - why do you think that? Helping them to develop their imagination around the story by talking, for example, about how the ending could have been different?

Our Reception children will be continuing to follow the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme. There will be an emphasis this half term on ensuring correct letter formation. We will be supporting the children to ensure that they start and finish their letters in the right place and they will begin to learn about ascenders and descenders (tall letters which reach to the sun, those which dip into the sea and those which stay in the boat). There will also be a strong emphasis on using punctuation (capital letters, finger spaces and full stops) correctly and consistently.

Our literacy will be based around the key texts we will be enjoying as part of our 'Caring, Sharing, Daring' topic work. We will be using nouns, verbs and adjectives in our speaking and writing tasks. Our role play areas will support this involving a superhero headquarters as well as a police station.

Favourite Books

Thank you to those who brought favourite books to share with the class at story time last half term. Books relating to any aspect of superheros including the emergency services are particularly welcome this 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 Reception children will begin the term investigating and developing their understanding of numbers to 20 and beyond, before progressing to addition and subtraction, sharing and grouping and in depth exploration of shapes.

In the Nursery, we will be learning about sequencing events and numbers and also using positional language. Noticing and working with 2d and 3d shapes will also feature lots in our play, creative work and construction this term.

Reception PE and Forest School

Reception children have begun a unit of trampoline coaching at Air Extreme which will run for the first six weeks of term. They require their PE kit every Wednesday, but should arrive in school wearing their school uniform. Any jewellery, including earrings, will need to be removed or covered so ideally, it is best to remove these before coming to school on PE days.

Forest School will take place on Thursday afternoons for Reception – you will have been informed separately if this applies to your child.

Reception Sharing Our Learning Session with Parents/carers

We will be inviting parents/carers of Reception children into the FSU, to share our learning, on Thursday 23rd May 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.

Appropriate clothing, footwear and sun protection

As we move toward the Summer months and hope for some lovely weather, it is important that your children are suitably well prepared to maximise their learning opportunities. We ask that children continue to have a waterproof jacket with them everyday and that shoes are safe for the range of activities they will be involved in – sandals and croc-style shoes must be well fitting to avoid tripping. Flip flops are not suitable. Sun hats and sun cream will also be required – reminders will be sent about these once we reach the need for them!

Supporting your Nursery 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.

Finally, I'm sure that you will join me in welcoming Mrs Bragg to our staff team in The FSU.

Kind regards

Mrs North and the FSU Team.