

Autumn Term 1
FSU Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the FSU! It has been a pleasure to see the children returning to school and we have been so pleased with how confidently they have settled into their new routines. We have enjoyed hearing all about their summer experiences and adventures, as well as getting to know the children who are joining us for the first time this term.

Our first Story Time theme has been Teddies. Many children have a favourite teddy or soft toy that is particularly important to them, so this has provided a lovely starting point for conversations about things that are special to us. We have used this idea to help the children recognise just how unique, wonderful and precious each and every one of them is. This understanding will underpin much of our learning throughout this term.

Marvellous Me!

Our topic this half term is 'Marvellous Me!', focusing on helping the children develop a positive sense of themselves and their place within our FSU community. We will explore our five senses and emotions, while establishing routines, learning about belonging and understanding the importance of our school rules. Throughout the term, we will encourage kindness, thoughtfulness and positive choices, celebrating both our similarities and the differences that make each child and family unique.

Friendship will be an important part of our learning as we think about the people who support us at home, at school and in our wider community. We will also explore how mistakes are a natural and valuable part of learning and help us to try again, learn and grow.

As the term progresses, we will prepare for our Harvest Festival and explore the changes that Autumn brings, including how we can care for our environment. We will learn about seasonal celebrations and events such as Guy Fawkes Night, Remembrance Day and Diwali, before looking ahead to the Christmas story as winter approaches.

Our School Values for the Autumn Term are:

- Thankfulness
- Compassion

Phonics & Literacy

Our Nursery children will be developing their early communication and literacy skills through a variety of enjoyable games and activities. These will include opportunities to listen carefully, explore rhythm and identify and join in with rhyme.

In Reception, the children will begin their Read Write Inc. (RWI) journey. They will be introduced to Set 1 sounds and start developing the skills needed to blend sounds together for reading and segment sounds for writing simple words. This is an exciting milestone in your child's Early Years education, and we hope you will enjoy seeing their confidence and skills develop as they begin to discover the world of reading and writing. We will be holding a Phonics Information Evening for parents on 16th September and we strongly urge all parents of Reception children to attend.

Maths

Mathematical learning in the FSU takes place through a mixture of purposeful activities, play and challenges both indoors and outdoors.

This term, the children will explore matching, sorting and comparing, including looking at size, mass and capacity. We will also investigate patterns and shapes and provide lots of opportunities for the children to develop their mathematical thinking through practical experiences. Alongside these areas, we will be developing the children's understanding of the five principles of counting, helping to build the foundations for their future mathematical learning.

Art

Our art focus this term is Printing. This will link closely with our 'Marvellous Mel' topic, giving the children opportunities to experiment with printing using different parts of their bodies as well as objects and materials found in nature.

We look forward to seeing how creatively the children use these different textures, shapes and patterns to produce their own artwork.

Outdoor Learning, Farm School & PE (Reception Children Only)

During the school year, all Reception children will have the opportunity to experience Outdoor Learning sessions. You will receive an email when it is your child's turn so that you know when to send them to school in suitable old clothing.

The Reception Class will also have opportunities to visit Esselbeare Farm and take part in Farm School activities. Again, we will let you know when these visits are scheduled.

Wellie Boots

Wellies are an essential part of life in the FSU! The children need them not only for Outdoor Learning and Farm School they also wear them regularly when accessing our Outdoor Learning area, grassed spaces and some areas of the playground. There is a dedicated wellie rack where children can keep their named boots. Many Reception families find it easiest to leave wellies in school throughout the week, or even for the duration of the term, and we would recommend this where possible. We also have some spare wellies available for the children to use if needed.

PE Kit

This half term, Reception children will do PE on Wednesday mornings so they should come to school dressed in their PE kit on this day and bring their school uniform with them to get changed into afterwards.

Sharing Our Learning with Parents/Carers

Reception

We would like to invite parents and carers of Reception children into the FSU to spend some time sharing and celebrating the learning from our first half term.

This will take place on Friday 23th October from 8.45am.

The session is an opportunity for your child to show you some of the things they have been learning and enjoying in school. Attendance is completely optional, and we will make sure that all children understand that some parents and carers may not be able to attend because of work or other commitments.

If you are unable to join us on the day but would like to arrange another opportunity to see your child's learning, please let me know and I will do my best to arrange this.

We are also always delighted to hear about achievements and experiences that take place beyond school. If your child has achieved something through swimming, sport, music or another activity, please share it with us. We would equally love to celebrate any special learning, projects or achievements that your child has completed at home.

Nursery

For our Nursery families, Tapestry is a wonderful way to keep up with what your child has been enjoying and learning during their time in the FSU. Please continue to use Tapestry to share examples of learning, experiences or 'Wow Moments' from home. The children love having the opportunity to talk about these experiences with their friends, and it is lovely for us to celebrate their achievements together.

We are very much looking forward to the year ahead and to supporting, encouraging and celebrating each child as they grow, learn and develop. We hope they enjoy a happy and rewarding year, filled with exciting experiences, new friendships and opportunities to build their confidence.

We value our partnership with families and look forward to working together to support your child throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, wellbeing or school life, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing the children's many achievements with you.

Kind regards,

Mrs North and the FSU Team