



## St Joan of Arc Nursery Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2018



### Topic: Once Upon A Time

#### Religious Education:

We will be covering the following topic in RE this half term;

Local Church and Community – children will have the opportunity to learn about their local church and community and how we celebrate traditions, stories and Jesus.

We will be continuing to learn the prayers for the different part of the school day – a morning prayer, lunchtime prayer and home time prayer.

#### Communication and Language, and Literacy:

- **Reading:** The children will continue to access the reading corner in the classroom along with daily story telling, regular big book sharing and a visit to the school library each Wednesday. Through our fairytale topic, the children will be reading, mark making and retelling familiar fairytales, with a particular focus on the following fairytales : Jack and the Beanstalk, The Gingerbread Man, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children will be retelling the fairytales using a variety of resources – puppet shows, story sacks, masks, toys, story sequencing cards etc.
- **Writing:** The children will continue to access the writing tools within the writing area, where they will be encouraged to draw and make marks. We will look at the initial letters in familiar words and the children will be encouraged to 'have a go' at writing. This term we will introduce the concept of name writing.
- **Speaking and Listening:** The children will have lots of opportunities to work in small groups where they are encouraged to take turns speaking and listening to each other. We encourage the children to speak in full sentences and encourage 'good listening' skills such as looking at the speaker. The children will play lots of listening games to improve their listening skills at the end of the day. We will continue to send 'Kate' our class pet home for the weekend and give the children a platform on which to talk about their time with her to the whole class. Children will have the opportunity to use the story structures and language of fairytales to retell stories, negotiate play activities and to share and discuss their ideas during small group teaching activities.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- Children we will continue to help tidy up and put things away in the correct place.
- The children will have opportunities to role-play making 'good choices' in the Nursery and be kind and helpful to each other.
- Children will also continue to model turn-taking during child-initiated play.
- The children will be encouraged to play with different children in the Nursery through small group sessions and games in the outside area.
- The children will be working in small groups to make Gingerbread people and porridge – learning about personal hygiene (such as washing hands), sharing fairly and working together as a group.
- We will continue to work with the children to help them resolve conflicts and negotiate plans and activities with each other.
- The children are encouraged to be independent when putting on their jumper/cardigans and coats, using aprons and using the dressing up clothes.

#### Mathematics:

- This half term the children will continue to learn about different shapes in their environment.
- The children will continue with 1:1 counting and matching numerals with a quantity up to ten.
- The children will have opportunities to look at and discuss patterns in the environment and will be encouraged to make their own repeated patterns.
- The children will discuss and record the height of their bean plants.
- The children will have measuring opportunities where they can talk about and compare sizes and lengths.
- We will be comparing two sets of numbers and identifying which set is more/less.
- The children will have many practical mathematical experiences, such as activities in the sand and water trays, on a regular basis.

#### Understanding the World:

- **ICT:** We will also be using the CD player to listen to stories and music in the classroom. We will continue to learn how to operate a computer in the Nursery.
- **Science:** This half term we will be planting seeds and monitoring their progress as they grow. We will be looking at how materials change with heating and cooling through cooking activities.
- **DT:** The children will be encouraged to select and use resources around the classroom to build and construct a variety of models such as beanstalks, fairy tale characters' homes, castles, etc. If you have any recycled materials – boxes, containers, kitchen roll tubes (check the products didn't contain nuts before sending into school please) we would appreciate them for the children to use for DT.

### Physical Development:

- The children will be encouraged to put on and take off their coats and painting aprons themselves, with decreasing support as they develop.
- The children will have opportunities to practise their scissor skills and pencil grips in the creative areas.
- The children will be encouraged to make pictures out of scrunched up tissue paper to build fine motor skills.
- The children have daily access to the sand and water trays with a mixture of planned activities (investigating floating and sinking, measuring and ordering according to size and weight, using foam numbers and letters, letter moulds and story props to retell stories) and child initiated activities (using a wide variety of sand and water tray equipment).
- The children will be encouraged to practise their balancing skills in the outside area.
- The children will have opportunities of moving around the Nursery in a variety of ways such as running, hopping, jumping and skipping. We will be developing our ball skills this half term, the children will have opportunities to pass, catch, kick, and hit large and small balls.
- The children have access to the variety of resources in the outdoor area.

### Expressive Arts and design:

- The children will have the opportunity to experiment with play dough and a variety of different tools and equipment in the malleable area.
- Our role play area this half term will be a fairy tale castle. The children will be exploring the resources in this area to support their play.
- The children will be encouraged to make models of their favourite characters and settings from fairy tales using play dough, junk modelling resources and construction kits.
- Outside the children will have opportunities to role play different fairytales by using the big blocks and other outdoor equipment to create various fairytale scenes and scenarios.
- The children will be exposed to a variety of art activities including finger painting, decorating gingerbread people, painting, collaging, making finger puppets and creating 2D and 3D pictures and models. Through these activities, the children will be experimenting and exploring colour, texture, shape as well as learning different joining techniques.

### Ways you can help at Home:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ☺ <b>Encourage your child to dress independently</b> – teach them how to do up their buttons, zips, buckles, put on/take off their jumpers.  | ☺ Provide opportunities for your child to use pens, paper, pencils, scissors, paint, etc. at home.         |
| ☺ Encourage physical activity through trips to the park, ball games, swimming, running, biking, climbing, etc.   | ☺ <b>Read with your child each night</b> , discuss the story with them and record in their reading record. |
| ☺ Encourage your child to talk about what they do at school each day.  | ☺ Look for and discuss different sounds around the home, and when out and about.                           |
| ☺ Let your child help as you cook at home – discuss measuring with them etc.   | ☺ Read, discuss and encourage your child to retell the fairytales we are focusing on this half term.       |
| ☺ Look for numbers and shapes in the environment as you are out and about.   | ☺ Practise forming numbers in different ways – making numbers from playdough, painting numbers, etc        |
| ☺ Count regularly with your child – as they are tidying up, doing different jobs, etc.   | ☺ Provide opportunities for your child to 'have a go' at writing.  |
| ☺ Listen for the initial sounds in words and share with your child particularly the initial sound in their name.   |  |
| ☺ <b>Assist your child in contributing to their learning journal</b> – remember this is a partnership between home and school, to share information about your child's interests and learning in different settings. We hope you are finding this informative. |  |

### Other Information:

- **Can you help?** If you think you can help in any way with the topic we are doing this half term (Fairytales), please talk to the class teacher.
- Also, if you have any old fabrics/costumes that you no longer need and wish to donate to the school, please talk to the class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another successful half term in Nursery