



St Joan of Arc Nursery Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018 (1st 1/2)

Topic: I am special!



Religious Education:

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

- Domestic Church, during this theme the children will know and understand 'the importance of their name.' Also they will know and understand God knows and loves each one of them and God knows each person's name.
- We will be learning the prayers for the different parts of the school day – a morning, lunchtime and home time prayer.
- You can help at home by teaching your child to make the Sign of the Cross using their right hand.

Communication & Language and Literacy:

- **Reading:** The children will become familiar with the reading corner in the classroom and are encouraged to discuss their favourite stories and books. We will be learning how to take care of books and handle them carefully. Once the children have settled into nursery and the class routines, they will begin bringing home a reading book to share at home. Please read with your child and sign their reading record.
- **Writing:** We will be introducing the children to writing tools within the writing area where they will be encouraged to draw and make marks. We will look at the initial letters in their name and the children will be encouraged to 'have a go' at 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 also have weekly 'show and tell' sessions and circle times. We will tell you which day 'show and tell' is on once the children have settled into routines. 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 increase their listening skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- At the beginning of the term, we will be playing lots of games to help us learn names and get to know each other better.
- We will be meeting and learning the names of all the people who help us when we are at school, including teachers, office staff, lunchtime supervisors and of course Miss Campbell and Mr Heneghan!
- We will become familiar with the routines of school – fruit time, playtime and lunch time. We will also talk about the importance of washing our hands after going to the toilet and before eating.
- We will be talking about the different rules we have in the classroom and at school and think about why rules are important.
- We will become familiar with where things go in the classroom and learn to help tidy up and put things away in the correct place.

Mathematical Development:

- We will be singing number rhymes and songs that use number names in a familiar context. We will also be encouraging the children to use props to act out these songs and rhymes.
- The children will be looking at and identifying numbers in the environment that have personal significance to them such as; the number 3 and 4, their door number etc.
- We will be thinking about our birthdays and the months of the year, including making a birthday display.
- We will use finger paints to make patterns and look at patterns in the environment.

Understanding the World:

- **History:** We will be thinking about how we are unique and how much we have changed since we were babies.
- **Science:** This half term we will be looking at different parts of the body and how the children are unique and special.
- **Geography:** We will be becoming familiar with the different parts of the school – the playground, dinner hall, classrooms and toilets.
- **Computing:** We will be looking at and using the different tools on the interactive whiteboard.

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.
- 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).

- We will introduce the children to a variety of resources in the outdoor area (bikes, climbing equipment, balls etc). As well as being introduced to how to use them safely, they will be introduced to various balancing, aiming and throwing games using different equipment.

Expressive Art and Design :

- We will introduce the children to the resources in our creative areas.
- The children will have the opportunity to paint: we will be encouraging them to create self-portraits for our "I am Special" display.
- The children will have the opportunity to experiment with play dough and a variety of tools and equipment in the malleable area.
- Our role play area this half term will be the 'home corner' area. The children will be exploring the resources in this area to support their play.
- The children will explore colour mixing by mixing different coloured powder paints to see what colours they produce.

Ways you can help at Home:

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| ☺ Encourage your child to dress independently – teach them how to do up their buttons, zips, buckles, put on/take off their jumper and coat. | ☺ Provide opportunities for your child to use pens, paper, pencils, paint etc at home. |
| ☺ Encourage physical activity through trips to the park, ball games, swimming, running, biking, climbing etc. | ☺ Read with your child regularly, discuss the story with them and record in their reading record. |
| ☺ Sing 'head, shoulders, knees and toes' with your child and talk about the different parts of the body. | ☺ Look for and discuss different sounds around the home, and when out and about. |
| ☺ Talk to your child about the things they can do now that they couldn't do when they were a baby. | ☺ Practise forming numbers in different ways – making numbers from play dough, painting numbers, etc |
| ☺ Look for numbers and shapes in the environment as you are out and about – door numbers, bus numbers etc. | ☺ Provide opportunities for your child to 'have a go' at writing. |
| ☺ We have introduced a new section to our curriculum newsletter below. We have provided you with (hopefully) some fun activities that you may wish to do with your child to help them with their understanding of the topic. This homework is optional and you may complete as much or as little as you wish. | ☺ Count regularly with your child – as they are tidying up, doing different jobs etc. |
| | ☺ Encourage your child to talk about what they do at school each day. |

Other Information:

- **Settling in school routines:** Over the next few weeks we will be introducing the children to, and helping them become familiar with, class and school routines. You can help this process by making sure your child is at school and picked up on time. Please spend some time each day reading with your child – record this in your child's reading record. The children will start bringing home reading books in a few weeks.
- **Clothing: Please make sure all items of clothing are named, including shoes, socks and jumpers.**
- **Drink Bottles:** We ask the children to bring in a bottle of water to school so they can drink water throughout the day. Please make sure the bottle is named clearly and only contains water.

We look forward to working with you this year in the Nursery.

Miss O'Brien

Let's learn about... Ourselves

This half term in Nursery our topic is 'I am special'. We will be learning about our families, our bodies, and what makes each

Let's solve...

Talk to your child about their birthday. What day is it? What month was it? What year was it? Ask your child to design their own birthday cake and draw the correct number of candles on top. Then with support write the

Let's go out & about...

Visit places that are special to your child i.e. the church they were baptised in, a family member's house etc.

Let's write it down...

Talk to your child about the people in your family. With support write/draw/paint/print your child's

Let's explore...

Learn more about our bodies. Support your child in researching/drawing &

Let's create...

Talk to your child about their name. Why did you choose it? What does it mean? Use different resources i.e. markers, cutting out letters, etc. write your child's name. If possible scribe

Let's talk...

Discuss with your child traditional foods from your culture. Pick your favourite and attempt to re-create it together. Maybe draw a picture, write the ingredients or take some

Let's get physical...

Could you set a challenge with your child to try a different form of exercise each week that incorporates counting i.e. 10x