



## St Joan of Arc Nursery Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term (2nd ½)



### Topic: Festivals and Celebrations

#### Religious Education:

We will be covering the following topic this half term;

- **Baptism** – this term we will be talking about Baptism and what it means to be welcomed into God's family.
- **Advent and Christmas-** The children will explore the importance of waiting for a visitor. They will discover how Advent is a time to prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas. They will learn how the Church prepares for Jesus' birth. They will also become familiar with the Nativity story.
- We will be continuing to learn the prayers for the different part of the school day – a morning prayer, lunch time prayer and home time prayer. You can help at home by teaching your child to make the Sign of the Cross using their right hand and also practising these prayers at home.

#### Communication and Language.

##### Literacy:

- **Reading:** The children will continue to have daily storytelling and regular big book sharing. They will also continue to access the reading corner in the classroom and are encouraged to discuss their favourite stories and books. We will continue learning how to take care of books and handle them carefully. This half term we will be reading a variety of books related to our topic such as, Kipper's birthday, poems and the Christmas Story.
- We will start to send home a reading book for your child to share with you at home each week. Please read with your child and sign their reading record.
- **Writing:** The children will continue to access the writing tools within the writing area, where they will be encouraged to draw and mark make.
- The children will have daily opportunities to write in different areas of the classroom, including the role play area in a number of ways (chalk, painting, pencil, markers, on paper and on boards).
- We will look at the initial sound in their name and the children will be encouraged to 'have a go' at writing.
- The children will be encouraged to create Christmas cards and 'have a go' at mark making.
- **Speaking and Listening:** The children will have lots of opportunities to work in small groups where they are encouraged to take turns speaking and listen to each other. We also have weekly 'show and tell' sessions (on Fridays) and circle times. 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. There will be opportunities to retell stories, negotiate play activities and share and discuss their ideas during small group teaching activities.

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- The children will be encouraged to continue to get to know each other and play together cooperatively.
- We will introduce further school routines and reinforce the rules we have learnt about school in the first half term.
- The children will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own 'self care' such as blowing their noses when needed and taking responsibility for unpacking and packing their own belongings at the beginning and the end of the school day.
- We will be discussing festivals and celebrations; what the children know and the things the children would like to find out.
- The children will be introduced to working in small groups, taking turns to talk and listen to each other.

#### Mathematics:

- 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 look at the weather and date on a daily basis and record it on our class calendar.
- The children will be looking at and identifying numbers in the environment that have significance for them, including talking about door numbers.
- We will use finger paints to make patterns and look at patterns in the environment.
- We will also make a countdown to Christmas Advent calendar.
- We will continue to count forwards and back to 5 / 10.
- We will be looking at 2D shapes and begin to talk about different properties of these shapes. The children will participate in practical activities such as building models and talking about the shapes they used.

#### Understanding the World:

- The children will look at the environment outside and discuss the weather daily
- This half term the children will talk about and share their own experiences of celebrations such as birthdays and parties, and we will discuss how we are all different and believe in different things, touching on other religions.
- The children will have opportunities to use the 2-Simple and Early Years ICT and looking at videos of the moon landings. Daily ICT opportunities also occur such as the use of the interactive whiteboard, Bee Bot robots and remote control toys, through all curriculum areas.

- The children will be encouraged to select and use resources around the classroom to design and make their own creations, If you have any recycled materials – boxes, plastic bottles, containers, kitchen roll tubes (please check the products didn't contain nuts before sending into school please) we would appreciate you bringing them in.

### Physical Development:

- The children have access to the variety of resources in the outdoor area (bikes, climbing equipment, balls, large blocks etc).
- 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).
- Continue practising throwing and catching a ball.
- The children will have opportunities to develop their fine motor skills through certain activities such as; rolling play dough, threading numbers, threading beads on string.

### Expressive Art and Design:

- The children will have the opportunity to experiment and create different sounds using a variety of instruments.
- They will use their imagination in our role play area, and in their own play.
- The children also have lots of opportunities to explore their own creative interests with access to a variety of art materials on a daily basis.
- We will have the opportunity to make different objects related to our topic i.e. Divas when we talk about Diwali.
- We will also be doing lots of winter and Christmas art activities.

### 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 jumpers and coats. | ☺ 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.                                  | ☺ Read with your child each night, discuss the story with them and record in their reading record.   |
| ☺ Look for numbers and shapes in the environment as you are out and about.   | ☺ Practise the words from your child's word tin/word wall. Encourage your child to look out for these words when reading their reading book. |
| ☺ Encourage your child to speak in full sentences when they are answering a question.  | ☺ Provide opportunities for your child to 'have a go' at writing.  |
| ☺ Count regularly with your child – as they are tidying up, doing different jobs etc.  | ☺ Let your child help as you cook at home – discuss measuring with them etc.   |
| ☺ Look for and discuss different sounds around the home, and when out and about.   | ☺ Talk to your child about how we are all different.   |
| ☺ Practise forming numbers in different ways – making numbers from playdough, painting numbers, etc  | ☺ Discuss other religions and festivals you may know.  |

### Other Information:

- **Can you help?** If you think you can help in any way with the topic we are doing this half term (festivals & celebrations), please talk to the class teacher.
- **Can you help? RE :** In RE we are discussing welcoming, if you would be willing to talk about welcoming your child into your home/ the church through their Baptism then please talk to their class teacher.
- **Learning Journals** – These will come home at the end of the half term – please feel free to contribute to them by adding any photos, captions, tickets, labels or special drawing or writing your child has done. You will be able to keep the Journal for 2 weeks over the Christmas holidays. You can also add to the learning journal with any news you wish to share. Please only use 2 pages as we will have lots of other activities to add to the journal during the year.
- **Phonics**- Please see attached list of the sounds we are covering and the rhyme that goes with each hand to help with handwriting.

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

Miss O'Brien

## Phonic character 'sayings' to help handwriting formation and children's recognition of each sound/letter

m:	Go up to Maisie's head, down to Maisie's toe, up and over two mountains
a:	Go up round the apple and down the leaf
s:	Go up to the snake's head and slither down the snake.
d:	Go up and over the dinosaur's back, round his bottom, up his tall neck and down to his feet.
t:	Go up the tower, down the tower and across the tower
i:	Go up the insect's body,, stroke him down the back and poke him in the eye
n:	Go up to Nobby's head, down to Nobby's toe, up and over the net
p:	Go up to the parrot, down the pirate's plait, around the pirate's face and walk the plank
q:	Go up to the top of her head, round her face, down her plait and give her a curl.
o:	Go up to the top of the orange, around the orange and squirt!
c:	Go up to the top of the caterpillar, curl around the caterpillar.
k:	Go up to the kangaroo's head, down the body, around the tail, down the leg and kick!
u:	Go up, down and under the umbrella, up to the top and down into the puddle.
b:	Go up to the top of the boot, down to the heel, round the toe and kick!
f:	Go up to the flower, down the stem and across the leaves.
e:	Go up, lift off the top and scoop out the egg.
l:	Go up the leg, down the leg
h:	Go up to the horses head, down to the hooves and over the horse's back.
r:	Go up to the robot's head, down his back, then curl over his arm
j:	Go up to Jack's head, down his body, curl and dot
v:	Go up, down a wing, up a wing
y:	Go up to the horn, down a horn, up a horn and under his head
w:	Go up, down, up, down, up
z:	Go up to the top , zig ,zag ,zig
g:	Go up to the top of the queen's head, round her head, up past her earrings and down her hair.
x:	Go up, down the arm and leg, go up the other leg and arm.

# Let's learn about... Celebrations

This half term in Nursery our topic is 'Festivals & Celebrations'. We will be learning about festivals that are celebrated around

## Let's solve...

Talk to your child about Advent. Discuss with them an Advent Wreath and the different colour candles and what they mean. With your child draw an Advent Wreath and label it with the numbers.

Discuss why we use an

## Let's go out & about...

- \* Go to a fireworks display
- \* Visit Oxford Street to see the Christmas

## Let's write it down...

- \* Write a letter to Father Christmas, think about how to start/ end a letter and write an address on the envelope.

## Let's explore...

Research some child friendly Science experiments linked with fireworks. Carry out the experiment and

## Let's create...

- \* Create firework pictures
- \* Design your own Christmas cards/ lantern/ lamp.

## Let's talk...

What is your favourite Christmas story? With your child talk about Christmas and what it means to our community. Dig out your favourite story and read it together. Ask your child to draw a picture of the story.

## Let's get physical...

Research types of dance from different cultures. Could you learn a new dance that people around the world perform at their own celebrations or festivals? We would love children to perform this to the class (or parents!) but