



St Joan of Arc Reception Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018 (1st ½)



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:

- **Phonics:** The children will be involved in various 'phonological awareness' activities this half term such as playing rhyming games, listening to sounds in words, clapping our names and words, talking about words that begin with the same sound (alliteration), and listening to and identifying the sounds different words start with. We will be following a daily systematic phonic programme that teaches children to read and write by blending and segmenting sounds. The children will be encouraged to recognise their own name and talking about the sound it starts with.
- **Reading:** The children will become familiar with the reading corner in the classroom. We will be learning how to take care of books and handle them carefully. We will be introducing the children to book language – title, author, illustrator, blurb, characters etc. The children will be bringing a book home daily, please read with your child and sign their reading record each day. Your child will also bring home a 'word wallet' with high frequency words to learn by sight. Please practise these words daily with your child alongside their reading.
- **Writing:** The children have daily opportunities to write in different areas of the classroom, including role-play areas, like the home corner and outside. The children will have regular handwriting (their name, patterns, and letter formation) using a range of materials like chalk, painting, pencil, markers, on paper and in books. 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 improve 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!
- We will become familiar with the routines of school – fruit time, playtime and lunch time. We will talk about the importance of washing our hands after going to the toilet and before eating. The children will also learn the routine for changing for PE – they will be encouraged to dress and undress themselves independently.
- 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.

Physical Development:

- 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 have access to a variety of resources in the brand new outdoor area (bikes, climbing equipment, balls, mud kitchen, painting easels and the quiet reading area etc). They will be involved in various balancing, aiming and throwing games using different equipment.
- Once the children settle in full time we will begin weekly PE sessions. They will be introduced to the routine of dressing and undressing independently for PE.
- The children will have opportunities to practise their scissor skills and pencil grip.

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.
- We will be working on our number recognition and correct sequencing for numbers 1 -10.
- The children will participate in practical measuring tasks such as using our hands and feet to measure classroom objects.
- We will be using mathematical language such as 'tallest', 'shortest', 'longest', 'smallest', 'more', 'less' in practical measuring tasks in the sand and water trays.
- We will use finger paints to make patterns and look at patterns in the environment.
- We will be thinking about our birthdays, the months of the year and discussing our daily timetable at school using a visual timetable.

Understanding of the World:

- **Science:** This half term we will look at our body parts and their uses. We will also be talking about our senses.
- **History:** We will be thinking about how much we have changed since we were babies.
- **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. We will also be using the CD player to listen to stories. Children will have daily access to computers in the classroom and learn to operate age related programmes.
- **DT:** We will be looking at the various resources in the DT area and learning how to use these safely. Children will have access to different materials – All donations towards our junk modelling will be greatly appreciated!

Expressive Arts and Design:

- Our role-play area this half term will be a 'home corner'. The children will be exploring the resources in these areas to support their play.
- As we will be talking about babies in History we will be role-playing how to care for and bath a baby.
- The children will have the opportunity to experiment with play dough and a variety of tools and equipment in the malleable area.
- We will be making sponge prints of the different parts of our bodies, then labelling the main parts.
- The children will explore colour mixing by mixing different coloured powder paints to see what colours they produce.
- We will be creating self-portraits of ourselves for display.

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 each night, 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. | ☺ Practise the words from your child's word wallet. Encourage your child to look out for these words when reading their reading book. |
| ☺ Talk to your child about the things they can do now that they couldn't do when they were a baby. | ☺ Look for and discuss different sounds around the home, and when out and about. |
| ☺ Look for numbers and shapes in the environment as you are out and about – door numbers, bus numbers etc. | ☺ Practise forming numbers in different ways – making numbers from play dough, painting numbers, etc |
| ☺ Encourage your child to talk about what they do at school each day. | ☺ 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. |

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 and practising the words in their word wallet.
- **Homework:** Homework will be sent home on a Monday and needs to be returned to school each Friday for homework to be marked. Homework is compulsory and must be completed within the week. This helps to maintain consistency between school and home and will be marked each week by the teacher.
- **Drink Bottles:** We ask the children to bring in a bottle of water to school each day so they can drink water throughout the day. Please make sure the bottle is named clearly and only contains water.
- **Clothing:** Please make sure all items of clothing are named, including shoes, socks, jumpers, plimsolls, PE t-shirts etc
- **Assemblies:** Pupils will begin to attend whole school assemblies on Monday mornings.

We look forward to working with you this year in Reception!

Miss Kelly and Miss Nicou

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? Using 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