



St Joan of Arc Reception Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2 2016

Topic: Festivals and Celebrations



Religious Education:

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

- **Baptism/Advent & Christmas:** during this topic the children will get to know how we welcome people into our own or God's family. We will also be learn about Advent, when people look forward to the birthday of Jesus at Christmas, and learn about the first Christmas and how people celebrate Jesus' birthday each year. We will continue to practise 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 and practising the prayers.

Communication & Language and Literacy:

- **Phonics:** We follow a systematic, synthetic, daily phonic programme. The children are introduced to a new sound each day as well as revising previous sounds taught. The sounds we covered last half term were: m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p. As well as continuing to revise/reinforce these sounds the children will be introduced to these sounds – o, c, k, u, b, f, e, l, sh, r, j, v, y, w, th, z, ch, qu, x, ng, nk. The children are taught to break words down into individual sounds when they are attempting to read and write.
- **Reading:** The children will continue to have weekly guided reading sessions, along with daily story-telling and regular big book sharing. Through these activities we will be focusing on - the elements of stories (openings, characters, etc); retelling stories; the children joining in with known phrases; identifying key high frequency words; looking at the sounds words begin and end with; and breaking down individual words into separate sounds. We will focus each week on a different story linked to our Festivals and Celebrations topic – non-fiction texts about festivals around the world; fiction text- Kipper's Birthday and the Christmas Story.
- **Writing:** The children have daily opportunities to write in different areas of the classroom, including role play areas. Handwriting (name practice, patterns, and letter formation) will continue in a number of ways (chalk, painting, pencil, markers, on paper and in books). The children will also be writing lists, captions and simple sentences, looking at punctuation such as capital letters and full stops. The children are encouraged to 'have a go' at writing – recording the sounds they are able to hear in the words they want to write.
- **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 (on Fridays- please try and make sure the things your children bring in are topic related and small enough to fit into their trays) 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 learnt about school in the first half term.
- We will continue to use greetings from other languages while greeting each other and during registration.
- 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. They will also continue to be encouraged to take more responsibility for dressing and undressing for PE sessions.
- 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.

Physical Development:

- We will have PE once a week. Please ensure your child has the correct PE uniform at school – a white T-shirt, blue/black shorts/jogging bottoms, black plimsolls. Please ensure that these items of clothing are named clearly! We will be focusing on gymnastic skills this half term. The children will have opportunities to explore different ways of moving around a space and correctly using equipment.
- 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 the variety of resources in the outdoor area (bikes, climbing equipment, balls, large blocks etc.)

Mathematical Development:

- Our number work will focus on recognising, counting, and ordering numbers to 10.
- We will be continuing to learn how to form numbers 0 – 10 and to count out groups of objects, play dice games and practise counting with correct 1:1 correspondence.
- The children will be exploring length and height, using the language associated with comparing and measuring.

- We will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes and talking about different properties of shapes. The children will participate in practical activities such as building models and talking about the shapes they used.
- The children will be adding groups of objects together and taking away objects from a group, counting how many are left
- We will be reinforcing mathematical language such as more, less, bigger, smaller, taller, shorter, empty, full, longer,
- We will be introducing the children to money - Children will begin to recognise that different coins have different values.

Understanding of the World:

- This half term the children will explore different festivals and celebrations from around the world. We will talk about how they are different to our celebrations (we will focus on Yom Kippur, Diwali and Chinese New Year through English sessions)
- We will be learning all about the story of Christmas and how it is traditionally celebrated.
- The children will have opportunities to use the 2-Simple programme. Daily ICT opportunities also occur such as the use of the interactive whiteboard, Bee Bot robots and remote control toys, through all curriculum areas. Reception children will visit the computer room several times a term.
- The children will be encouraged to select and use resources around the classroom. They will be creating Christmas cards along with making decorations closer to the holidays.

Expressive Arts and Design:

- We will have a variety of instruments readily available to use on a daily basis in order for children to develop their rhythm and musical experiences.
- One of our role play areas this half term will be related to the theme of festivals and celebrations. The children will have opportunities to dress up in costumes related to the festive season. (If you have any resources that will be useful in this role play area such as dressing up clothes, Christmas books, please send them into school).
- Outside, our role play area will be a 'construction site'. The children will also have opportunities to role play with cement mixers, tools and builder's hats. Clipboards and writing materials will be put in the outside area to encourage children to 'design'.
- 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.

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. | ☺ Read with your child each night, discuss the story with them and record in their reading record. |
| ☺ Encourage physical activity through trips to the park, ball games, swimming, running, biking, climbing etc. | ☺ Practise the words from your child's word wallet. Encourage your child to look out for these words when reading their reading book. |
| ☺ Reinforce the phonic sounds we have covered/are covering at school and encourage your child to blend known sounds together to read unknown words, or when attempting to write. | ☺ Look for and discuss different sounds around the home, and when out and about. |
| ☺ Provide opportunities for your child to use pens, paper, pencils, scissors, paint etc at home. | ☺ Practise forming numbers in different ways – making numbers from playdough, painting numbers, etc |
| ☺ Look for numbers and shapes in the environment as you are out and about. | ☺ Provide opportunities for your child to 'have a go' at writing. |
| ☺ Encourage your child to speak in full sentences when they are answering a question. | ☺ Let your child help as you cook at home – discuss measuring with them etc. |
| ☺ Count regularly with your child – as they are tidying up, doing different jobs etc. | |

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 drawings 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,

Miss Kelly and Miss Nicou

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 Reception our topic is 'Festivals & Celebrations. We will be learning about festivals that are

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