



St Joan of Arc Reception Curriculum Newsletter

Summer Term 2018 (2nd 1/2)



Topic: Amazing Animals

Religious Education:

Universal church- world: This term the children will focus on our world. Children will know and understand what we love and wonder about our world. We will explore why God gave us this wonderful world.

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 have covered so far this year are: s, m, c, t, g, p, a, o, r, l, d, b, f, h, i, u, v, w, y, z, n, k, e, j, r, th, sh, ch, qu, x, ng, nk, ay, ee, igh, ow, oo, ar, or, air, ir, ou, oy. As well as reinforcing all sounds covered so far this year, the children will be learning how to apply these sounds to their reading and writing. They will be learning to read and write CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words, and will be encouraged to record the sounds they can hear in words when they are attempting to write independently.
- **Reading:** The children will continue to have weekly guided reading sessions, along with daily story-telling and regular big book sharing. They will be encouraged to identify key high frequency words; looking at the sounds words begin and end with; and breaking down individual words into separate sounds. Through our 'Animals' topic, the children will read and listen to a variety of books about different pets, wild animals and farm animals. The children will also have the opportunity to access a variety of non-fiction books about animals to research different animals and describe some of their characteristics.
- **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, pencils, markers, on paper and in books). This half term as part of our 'Animals' topic the children will have opportunities to write labels, captions, explore non-fiction writing such as describing animals and writing letters. 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, circle times and we make use of chatterbox groups. Microphones and talking tins are used during children's play to help develop their language skills. We encourage the children to speak in full sentences and encourage 'good listening' skills such as looking at the speaker and thinking about what is being said. This half term we will be discussing how to care for pets and animals, how to handle animals carefully and the life cycles of animals and their young.
- **SHOW AND TELL:** This activity takes place on Fridays. Children are encouraged to talk about a variety of things during show and tell. If your child would like to bring in a **SMALL TOPIC-RELATED** object to show their group, please ensure that it is not valuable or breakable. Your child will be responsible for looking after their own item. It does not have to be a toy, it may be a book, photo or piece of memorabilia. Children do not have to bring in something every week – they can also talk about something they have done or a place they have visited.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- We will be talking about our experiences of having and caring for pets and animals.
- We will be discussing where products such as milk, eggs, and wool come from.
- The children will be naming and matching different baby animals to their parents and discussing what baby animals need to keep them warm and safe.
- We will be also be discussing how to keep safe around animals, including careful handling of pets, washing hands after touching pets/ farm animals, etc.
- We will be learning about the work of guide dogs in assisting people who are blind or partially sighted.



Mathematical Development:

- Our number work will focus on recognising, counting, and ordering numbers to 20.
- We will continue to learn how to form numbers 0 – 20 and to count out groups of objects.
- We will be ordering groups of numbers in the correct order.
- We will be exploring addition and subtraction by using small world animals. The children will be encouraged to discuss how they solved simple addition problems.
- We will sort and group 1p, 2p and 5p coins and use coins in role play in the 'Vet's Area'.
- We will continue to practise recognising and exploring 2D shapes such as squares, triangles, circles and rectangles.
- We will look at, name and investigate 3D shapes such as cubes, cones, spheres, cuboids and pyramids.
- We will order objects by height and capacity.
- We will be looking at patterns in the environment and talking about symmetry.
- We will be talking about positional language such as 'behind', 'next to', 'under' etc.



Understanding of the World:

- **Science:** This half term we will be discussing the life cycles of animals, categorising animals into different groups such as pets, farm animals and wild animals, matching baby animals to their parents, and talking about the use of farm animal products such as wool, milk and eggs.

- **Geography:** This half term we will be learning our address. The children will also begin to recognise animal habitats.
- **History:** Within our 'Animals' topic we will be talking about how animals have been used in the past to help humans – e.g.; horses and carts, donkeys, pigeons as message carriers, huskies and sleighs etc.
- **ICT:** We will be listening to interactive talking stories, using the CD player to play stories and music, programming bee-bot robots and the 'roamer'. We will also be using a programme called Early Years ICT. We will be developing literacy through ICT using 2 Create a Story and 2 Publish programs.
- **DT:** The children will be encouraged to select and use resources around the classroom to build and construct a variety of models, such as 3D animals. The children will be using construction kits to make different shelters for animals, and will make various animals from clay. If you have any recycled materials – boxes, containers, kitchen roll tubes (please 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:

- We will continue to have weekly PE sessions. Please ensure your child has the correct PE uniform at school – a white T-shirt with the **school logo** on it, blue/black shorts/jogging bottoms and black plimsolls. Please ensure that these items of clothing are named clearly! We will be focusing on dance skills this half term.
- 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 outdoor area (bikes, climbing equipment, balls, hoops, bean bags etc).

Expressive Arts and Design Development:

- We will continue to have weekly singing sessions as well as following the Music Express programme. This programme allows children to experiment and create using different instruments, their voices and objects around the classroom.
- Our role play areas this half term are the vets, a pet shop, and an office (writing) area. The children will have the opportunity to explore a variety of resources in each of these areas to role play their own and imagined experiences. In the vets/pet shop area, the children will use pet information sheets to get information from pet owners about their sick animals; they will role play operations, using the vet's kit, dress up as vets, veterinary nurses and receptionists and role play being clients bringing in sick pets and animals.
- Outside, the children will have the opportunity to role play a 'safari park'; they will use camouflage bikes to ride around and look for animals – take people on safari outings, help sick/injured animals, use binoculars to find the animals, take pictures of the animals, build cages using big blocks for the animals, have picnics amongst the animals and role play 'rangers'.
- The children will be exposed to a variety of art activities including painting, making collages and creating 2D and 3D pictures and models. Through these activities, the children will be experimenting and exploring colour, texture and shape, as well as learning different joining techniques.

Ways you can help at Home:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to dress independently – let them fasten their own buttons, zips, buckles, and put on/take off their jumpers. • Encourage physical activity through trips to the park, ball games, swimming, running, biking, climbing etc. • Look for numbers and shapes in the environment as you are out and about. • Count regularly with your child – as they are tidying up, doing different jobs etc. • Practise forming numbers in different ways – making numbers from play dough, painting numbers, etc • Let your child help as you cook at home – discuss measuring with them. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and discuss books about a variety of animals with your child. Talk about how animals e.g. horses, pigeons and dogs have helped humans in the past. • Read with your child each night, discuss the story with them and record in their reading record. • 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. • Provide opportunities for your child to use pens, paper, pencils, scissors, paint etc at home. • Reinforce the sounds we have covered at school and encourage your child to blend sounds when attempting to read and write. • Provide opportunities for your child to 'have a go' at writing. |
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Other Information:

- **Sports Day:** Sports Day will be on the **Thursday** 28th July in Finsbury Park. The children will need to wear their house colours. Please see the school newsletters for more information.
- **Can you help?** If you think you can help in any way with the topic we are doing this half term (Animals), please talk to the class teacher.

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