

NURSERY NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everybody! We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing half term. The children have been eager to tell us about their holiday during free play and in circle times!

Our topic this term is...

ANIMALS!

We have launched our learning with a new Rainforest role play area! The children are getting stuck in pretending to be different animals whilst using costumes and masks, and putting on explorer hats and binoculars to investigate animals they find, ticking off the animals they see, drawing sketches and much more! We will also be learning all about Christmas as December draws closer. As always our learning will go across all the Early Years Areas of Development.

Communication and Language

We will continue with lots of speaking and listening games. Our varied play as well as our animal topic will help broaden our vocabulary, as we discover more about a variety of creatures and their habitats, and learn to describe them. We use circle times to speak openly about home and our own interests and ideas.

Physical Development

The children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills. In PE lessons this half term, pupils will focus on movement and ball skills. They will recap responding to perform movements learnt on command, send and stop objects in different ways. In addition they will practice moving through agility ladders and dribbling balls using hands and feet.

We are also encouraging children to be increasingly independent with toileting and dressing. We are teaching the children to put their coats on independently. The children are very proud of themselves when they can do this. Please support their growing independence with toileting and putting on coats etc at home.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue our focus on how to play with others and share. We encourage children to use their 'kind hands' and 'kind words' at all times! One of the books we will focus on is the wonderful "Oh No George!" by Chris Haughton, which will extend our learning in this area. We will also be learning more about each other in our carpet sessions and celebrating difference.

Literacy

We will start to learn letter sounds together, following Jolly Phonics. We will learn and reinforce a sound a week as follows:

6.11.17 - s

20.11.17 - t

4.12.17 - p

13.11.17 - a

27.11.17 - i

11.12.17 - n

Although we will also learn the letter names, our focus will be on the letter sounds in order to lay good foundations for the children's reading, so 'sss' as in snake, rather than 'ES'. We will focus on hearing initial sounds in words to enable their literacy skills to develop.

We will read a wide range of animal themed books and stories. We will focus our learning around two books in particular as part of the Power of Reading scheme: "Tanka Tanka Skunk" by Steve Webb, and "Dear Zoo" by Rod Campbell. These will both allow us to learn about rhyme and rhythm. These are tricky concepts for children which need to be repeated, so do continue to work on rhyme and rhythm at home.

We will turn part of our classroom into a Post Office in the run up to Christmas! Children will be able to practice writing cards and letters and delivering post. **We would be very grateful if you could donate any cardboard boxes, envelopes or wrapping paper.**

Mathematics

In our number work we will continue working on solidifying the concept of counting, as well as counting objects reliably and recognising numerals. In our shape, space and measure work we will continue to look at basic 2D shapes, and working out how to describe size and height.

Understanding the World and RE

We are currently exploring Autumn and noticing the changes in the world around us. We will be learning about family traditions through our topic work and we will be celebrating Christmas with the whole school and learning about the Christmas story. Through our topic we will be learning about lots of different wild animals, their habitats, and how we look after them. We will encourage children to talk about what they have observed in the world around them. We will also be cooking more regularly now we are settled.

Expressive Art and Design

In Art this term we will be creating a range of art work linked to our theme Animals, as well as various Christmas projects. Mrs Forsyth will be coming into the Nursery every Tuesday to work with the class. We will look at naming primary and secondary colours dark and lighter shades of the same colour.

In Music this half term we will be continuing to learn through singing songs, playing instruments and movement, linking the music to their class topic of Animals. As well as singing known songs, we will be learning new ones and encouraging them to sing on their own by responding to the class register by singing, which will also develop their sense of pitch. Playing simple musical games as a class and putting actions to the words will develop their sense of pulse, and we will be practising the songs for our Christmas nativity.

A couple of requests:

Uniform

We are having a few problems with uniform being misplaced. Please make sure **all clothes are labelled** in an obvious place. Please also **check regularly** that your child isn't wearing somebody else's uniform by mistake as the children are still learning to put their belongings on their pegs. As the weather gets colder please ensure your child remembers appropriate clothing; we spend a lot of time outside. Please make sure all **hats, gloves and scarves are all clearly labelled**.

Spare clothing

If you have any of **Nursery's spare clothing, please return it to us as soon as possible**. We are also trying to gather some class wellies and umbrellas. If you have any to donate, along with any outgrown uniform, we would be very grateful. The children will start 'junk modelling' more this term, so if you have any **clean cardboard or plastic boxes/containers that would otherwise go in the recycling** throughout the year, please do bring them in!

Drop off and pick up

We have slightly altered our drop off and pick up arrangements to streamline them. **The gate to the courtyard will be opened at 8.30/3.00, allowing you to come into the courtyard and off the pavement!** At drop off, Nursery staff will be around in the courtyard and the class will go in shortly after.

Thank you for bearing with us as we streamline these arrangements. Please can I remind you that **drop off time is 8.55am, as for the rest of the school**; please aim to be in the courtyard before then. It can be very unsettling for children who have to be brought in via the office, in a different way. Thank you for your understanding.

Food and allergies

St Mary's is a healthy school, so we ask that children do not bring in chocolate to school, or in their **packed lunches**. We will have to remove this until the end of the day. Another important reminder: **PLEASE ENSURE NO NUTS ARE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL**, some have come in in pockets, or in snacks. We are a nut free school, and we have children with severe nut allergies.

Admin

Thank you so much for those who brought in the **family photograph and voluntary contribution of £40 for the year's cooking supplies**. It is not too late to give us either of these and they would be really appreciated: any money left over will be used to support the children's learning. The children can access their laminated family photographs whenever they like, to show friends and teachers, or for a reminder of home.

If you wish to come on a trip at the end of term you **need to attend this induction and apply for a DBS this term** otherwise you will not be able to accompany our trip. We would be very grateful for volunteers to allow trips to go ahead. **We will need two parents/carers with DBS checks to come with us on our little trip to the post box to post our Christmas cards. If you would be able to volunteer your time on the mornings of Monday 11th and Thursday 14th December please let me know as soon as possible.**

Dates for your diaries:

There will be lots of exciting school events happening during the build up to Christmas! Letters will go out nearer the time with details, but here are a few dates for your diary:

Friday 24th November at 9.10am - Christmas Tree Decoration Assembly

Monday 11th and Thursday 14th December (am) - Trip in groups to the post box to post our Christmas cards (subject to change). *Are there two parents who would be able to come with us? You need to have attended the volunteer induction and have a DBS check It will be for the whole morning. I would be very grateful.*

Wednesday 13th December - Parents invited into the classroom for our end of topic celebration. (11.00-11.30 for first half of the week; 2.45-3.15 for second half of the week and full time children)

Tuesday 19th December at 9.45am - Christmas Nativity Service at St Mary's **TIMINGS FOR ALL CHILDREN DIFFERENT - MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW. ALL CHILDREN TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE AND BE COLLECTED FROM THE CHURCH AFTERWARDS, THEN ALL CHILDREN INVITED FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY IN SCHOOL IN AFTERNOON AT 2PM.**

Wednesday 20th December - Last day of term (early finish time of 2.30pm)

Further ahead:

Monday 15th January 2018 - Deadline for Reception applications

Mother's Day Service - Friday 9th March

Fulham Palace Minibeast Hunt trips (helpers needed!) - Monday 30th May and Thursday 10th May

Farm Trip (all Nursery children in all day!) - Wednesday 27th June

Thank you so much for all your support,

Miss de Souza, Mrs Baines and Miss Martin