

# Curriculum Newsletter

## Foundation Unit

Hello! We hope you've all had a fantastic half term break! The children have created some fabulous animals for their home learning and we really enjoyed sharing them with the class. This half term our topic is called **Noah's Ark**. We will be learning about the story of Noah's Ark, the story 'Dear Zoo', farm animals and new life linked Easter. All areas of learning are taught through stimulating and exciting practical activities and play, linking to our topic. Below are some of the things we will be learning about in the 7 areas of our curriculum:

**Learning Opportunities in the Early Years Foundation Stage this half term are:**

### **PRIME AREAS:**

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - Much of this will be taught through day to day classroom practice and circle time. We will focus on talking about how to work together to plan and achieve activities, resolve minor disagreements through listening to each other to come up with a fair solution and support the children to be able to talk about things they enjoy, like and things they do not find easy.

**Physical Development** - Foundation 2 children will continue their gymnastic work focusing on different rolls, jumps and creating and following simple gymnastic routines. Also, as additional physical development time we will spend time moving to music and trying to move in time to the beat.

Foundation 1 children will still be focusing on movement and gymnastics. This will include balancing, jumping, landing appropriately and safely and express their selves and move freely in time to music. Please note F1 children **do not** need a PE kit they just take off their shoes and socks.

In class we will also be developing our fine motor skills by using small equipment such as scissors, pincers and play dough tools purposely. We will be busy mark making developing of art skills, making models and painting.

**Communication and Language** - There will be lots of opportunities to develop our speaking & listening skills through literacy, role play, circle times and play. We will be focusing on listening to others, responding appropriately and asking questions. As well as, being able to speak confidently in front of others about a visit or event.

### **SPECIFIC AREAS:**

**Literacy (reading and writing)** - In Foundation 2, as well as the daily Read, Write, Inc sessions we will be focusing on being able to hold our own simple sentence and writing it independently, hearing and writing all sounds within a word and transferring our RWI knowledge into our writing. Some children will be using some super connectives, openers and describing words to make their sentences more exciting, as well as trying to use their imagination to write stories of their own. We are also focusing on knowing what capital letters look like and being able to read many tricky words.

In Foundation 1, some children will continue with Read, Write Inc and others will be focusing on the letter of the week and hearing and writing initial sounds in words. The children may bring in an object beginning with that letter and we will learn how to say the sound, write the sound and look at different things that begin with that sound. In our writing and mark making we will be focusing on writing the sounds in our names, ordering the story of Noah's Ark, using describing words to write about the animals in Dear Zoo and telling writing a recount about an exciting trip to the farm!

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March the whole school will take part in 'World Book Day' Children can come dressed to school as their favourite story character! Both F1 and F2 will come together for an exciting morning taking part in lots of exciting activities around an all time favourite story 'The Gruffalo'.

**Mathematics** - In F2 we will continue to practise our number recognition and formation as well as counting backwards and in 2's, 5's and 10's. We will also be learning about using the correct language to describe position, capacity and weight as well as beginning to learn about money,

In F1 We will continue to practise our number recognition and formation as well as looking at positional language, size, lengths and capacity.

**Understanding the World** - In both F1 and F2, the children will be discussing similarities and differences in relation to living things, making observations of living things and learning how to show care and concern for living things in the environment. We will also investigate floating and sinking.

Also in F2, we will be learning how to create a picture on a paint program working with partners and helping to create a slide show using photographs.

In F1 we will be learning about how navigate around a computer, how to use a mouse and show control when selecting tools on a paint program to paint a simple picture.

**Expressive Arts and Design** - Within this area in both F1 and F2 will create artwork and models, make music, sing songs and taste and bake foods. All of this will be linked to Noah's Ark and the different animals that we will be learning about.

#### Ways to help your child:

- Encourage your child to be **independent** - Putting their own coat on getting dressed for PE and putting their own belongings in their drawer.
- Encourage your child every morning to find their name and write their name on their own name card (F1)
- Practise writing their name at home in fun ways - foam bath letters, magnetic letters, using a paintbrush and water, chalk outside etc,
- Encourage your child to listen carefully, speak clearly, follow instructions accurately;
- Spend time together sharing books (3 times a week) you could: discuss the pictures, model how to hold a book, turn the pages, count the words on the page, look for any sounds they recognise. Remember to record it in your child's home-school reading diary. Every week that your child reads at **least 3** times they will be moved up on the 'Racing Readers' and receive a prize after 8 weeks!
- Look for numbers, letters and words in the environment - model reading signs and words;
- Practise letter sounds and counting.
- In the achievement basket record your child's achievements so that we can celebrate and share them at school;
- In your child's Home Learning book, look for home learning tasks and complete them together - encouraging your child to do as much as possible by themselves. Home learning will be sent out every other Friday and needs to be returned by the following Friday.

#### Just a reminder:

- Please bring your child's book bag with their home-school diary **everyday**. If your child does not bring their book bag they may miss their reading day and books **will not** get changed.
- Mrs Troth (Charlie's mum) has very kindly offered to bake with a group of children every **Wednesday**. We ask for a contribution of **50p per week** to help buy the ingredients.
- Snack bar is every Thursday. Toast **25p** and Cereal bars **35p**.

- Please ensure **ALL** items of clothing, bags and shoes have your child's name clearly marked. Then any lost items can be returned quickly to their rightful owner.

#### Donations

- We are running very low on junk modeling this term and would appreciate any donations.
- New drainpipes, old blankets or bed covers, bread or milk crates we would love to use to build dens and use in our outdoor area.
- Spare clothes - We are always very grateful for any old uniforms, socks, underwear which no longer fit your children. Please if your child does come home in spare clothes can you return them asap!

#### A quick note:

As the weather is becoming a little more pleasant we are trying to spend more time outside. However, the ground is still very wet and we would like to ask for each child to bring a pair of wellies to school that can be left on their peg. Please ensure these have your child's name in and are in a bag.

**Website:** <http://www.woodsettsprimary.co.uk/>

On here you can find updates, lunchtime menus, diary dates and other important information.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support. If there is ever anything you want to discuss however big or small our doors are always open!

If you would like to contact a member of the Unit:

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