

Curriculum Report for Rainbow Class

Welcome back to all the children and parents of Rainbow Class. This term promises to be a very busy one indeed! The topic we have planned for term is *Animals and Homes* which always proves to be exciting and will stimulate the children's interest in all areas of the curriculum. We will focus on a different group of animals fortnightly which will be pets, mini beasts, sea life, wild/zoo animals, woodland and farm animals.

Personal, Social and Emotional



The children are now very settled at school and enjoy their time playing and learning with their friends. We place a strong emphasis in the nursery on developing and maintaining self esteem in the children and fostering a caring attitude and respect towards others. Amongst other activities that nurture these qualities, circle time is an activity carried out weekly that gives the children the opportunity to express how they feel and develop self confidence. Caring for animals will be a strong focus this term and welcome any photos of family pets so the children can talk about how they care for them.

Linking in with our theme of animals we will visit the zoo which gives the children an opportunity to spend the day with their friends in a different environment as well as meet the animals face to face. During the last half term our trips will include Sports Day at Highgate Woods and a trip to Hampstead Heath with the whole school, these days are always a success and enjoyed by everyone.

Communication, Language and literacy

We will be focusing on stories that tie in with our theme of animals and encourage enjoyment of reading by offering a range of interesting picture stories and reference books. We will support the children's language development and understanding by using 2D magnetic and 3D props to support stories. These help the children to link words and story



lines with specific pictures and encourage the children to retell the stories independently. The class will illustrate collaborative books and the adults will scribe what they say to accompany their work. Many of the children really enjoy having their language written on paper and learn so much about writing in this way.

Some children are enjoying 'writing' for themselves and adults will support and encourage correct letter formation when appropriate.

We will be reading various stories that bring the theme of Homes to life. We place a strong emphasis on speaking and listening in the early years and stories such as *On the Way Home* and *Peace at Last* inspire the children to share their own experiences with the adults and their friends.

The children will continue to learn the letter sounds as a whole class and throughout the day in smaller groups and individually. Children who have reached the stage of blending the sounds and are able to read simple words will be learning words that cannot be read phonetically, such as 'the' and 'we' and reading three/four familiar word sentences. We encourage the children to write the names of the people and things they draw and to have a go at writing words that can be 'sounded out'. This term we will be visiting the library every Tuesday afternoon and will take small groups each week to listen to a story and borrow books relating to our theme to bring back to school.

'Let's Think' is a whole school initiative that develops thinking and speaking and listening. Over the term all the children will take part in the activities working in small groups. Some of the activities have a mathematical element to them but they mainly support their thought processes and understanding.

Mathematical Development

The children will continue to learn and solve problems that the every day life present through a activities. Working with number 3D are visually stimulating and a



about number mathematics of wide range of lines in 2D and hands-on

approach of teaching your child to count up to ten and beyond with a real understanding of number and sequence. We will also continue to sing and act out number rhymes daily to develop an awareness of adding and taking away. Looking at numbers in the environment with your child, such as door and bus numbers, encourage number recognition and to think about larger numbers. Outside we will continue to further develop mathematical skills and will maximise on the good weather.

Understanding the World

This heading incorporates many areas of learning such as Science, Geography, History, Religious Education, Information Communication Technology (ICT)-computers! The particular areas which our topic lends itself more readily to this term are science and geography. The children



will find out about the various habitats that animals and mini beasts live in. Children will also begin to establish similarities and differences between the animals and mini-beasts, for example, how they move, do they have skin or fur? The children will have the opportunity to observe the life cycle of a caterpillar by watching them build cocoons around themselves and then hatch out into butterflies. They will also learn about change by planting seeds and beans, caring for them and watching them grow into plants and flowers.

In ICT the children will use the computer to access information about the various types of animals that we are looking at and through this work and other computer programs will begin to refine their ability to use the touch pad and whiteboard effectively.

Creative and Expressive Arts

We will encourage creative development by providing the appropriate resources for the children to choose to make models out of junk using the skills they have learnt, to cut and join various materials together.



Collage work, drawing and painting using a range of 3D and 2D techniques, working on both, small and large scale will continue. All of this work contributes to the lovely classroom displays and the children's individual profile books.

Role playing plays such an important part in children's all round development especially language and socially. Playing in the different scenarios such as the Pet Shop or being a Fireman help the children to achieve these skills. Also they will act out familiar stories, dramatising different roles and spoken story language. We will also attempt to recreate animal movements and actions during PE sessions. The children will enjoy singing animal songs such as Old MacDonald and We're Going on a Bear Hunt and accompanying these with musical instruments.

Physical Development



Daily access to the outside area enables the children to take part in more active play. Tricycles and two wheeled bikes are in permanent use and are ideal in helping the children to balance and coordinate their movements. During our PE sessions in the Sports Hall, we will be developing the children's abilities to play collaborative, team spirited games such as relay races and throwing and catching games. Children will enjoy these activities in the garden too, especially when the weather improves. The children will benefit from the exercise and be fit and healthy for competing in our Sports Day at the end of term. Activities to develop fine motor skills, which enable the correct use of scissors and pencils are available daily. Healthy eating will also be a focus and the children will learn about foods that are good for us and not so good for us.

PATCH

Children will continue to take home books for parents and other family members to read to or share with them. Just to remind you we change books on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, if your child wants to keep the same books for one day or the whole week that's fine. As a child starts to feel confident they may want to be the storyteller. What is important is the sequence and book language your child uses, attention they pay to the words and the clues that they pick up from the pictures. Do not insist on accurate 'reading' - interest and confidence is what we are trying to build. Pointing out letters from your child's name and similar word patterns are a good way of drawing your child's interest to the words in books and in the outside environment. Read to your child daily when they are comfortable and relaxed, it should be a time of enjoyment, not pressure. Your child will need a PATCH bag for the books, these can be purchased from the school office.

Jeanette, Alison and the Nursery Team