Reception / Jeffers and Donaldson

Year R: Autumn 2

'Amazing Animals'

We are excited to be moving on to our new topic, Amazing animals.

Communication and Language

The children has wowed us with their reading in Autumn 1. We love seeing the children share books and stories with each other and adults. They will start to blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letters. We will use some non-fiction books on animals and re tell stories related to events through acting and role play. This will lead to writing a fact file on their favourite animal to encourage writing too. As Christmas approaches the children will be inspired to write a list of the presents they wish to receive and write a letter to Father Christmas.
Using the fairy tale stories of The Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff the children will be shown what a story map looks like. They will also be encouraged to sequence a story using vocabulary of beginning, middle and ends.

Mathematical Development

As the children become more familiar with numbers we embed a greater depth and understanding before we move on. To really familiarise the children with numbers 0-3 the children will be shown different ways of representing these numbers, comparing them and looking at composition. To develop further understanding one more and one less of these numbers will be introduced. We shall also be looking at shapes such as circles, triangles and moving on to shapes with 4 sides. We love to sing our days of the week song and we shall move on to sequencing daily events.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term we will be using different textures and materials to make houses for the three little pigs and bridges for The Three Billy Goat Gruff. As out topic is Amazing Animals we will look at different patterns on animals to see if we are familiar with any. Lots of celebrations to explore this term with firework pictures, Christmas decorations, Christmas cards, Christmas songs/poems

In music they have enjoyed singing a range of songs and will now sing Christmas songs and listen to music to make their own dances in response. In our continuous provision area resources are available to them to use in their own art work. No first year at school is complete without a traditional Nativity Service. The Foundation Stage children will take centre stage in this performance at St. Peter's Church on Thursday 2nd December 2021.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As the children enter their second half term and feel more settled they will gently be encouraged to become more independent. Through the tasks and activities available, turn taking and sharing will be promoted. Listening to others, taking turns in conversation as well as good manners in the classroom and lunchtimes will also be a focus. We encourage the children to agree the class rules and routines and to build respectful relationships. We shall reflect on how we manage our emotions and how we can deal with it, regulation being a key focus. Our PSHE lessons will support our work on Celebrating Difference.

Understanding the World

What a great season to explore the natural world with an Autumn walk. The children will observe things as they are outside, including plants and animals. We will talk about how the seasons change and what Autumn has to offer.
Linked to our Celebrating Difference topic we will be talking about where people live and share photo's of what different homes may look like. It will include their surroundings as well as the building itself.
The children will be encouraged to talk about what they have done with their families during Christmas' in the past and discuss any traditions that have been made in their own families. As a class will share photos of how Christmas used to be celebrated in the past. How has it changed? What is different now?

Physical Development

Fine Motor Activities
Fine motor skill continues to be a key area for all the children. Activities are provided each morning for the children to access. All areas in provision provide writing material to encourage the children to write or draw within their play. Forest School also plays a big part in building up the muscles tone to put pencil pressure on paper.

Gross Motor Activities
In PE the children will be developing their ball skills by catching and throwing. In our outdoor facility we have many activities to encourage gross motor skills such as balance bikes, wheelbarrows and prams. Autumn is always a good time of year for sweeping up all those leaves which the children love whilst encouraging gross motor movements.

Forest School

The children have become familiar with the area and will be starting to build up skills and use new tools. This term we will remind ourselves of the important rules to keep ourselves safe at Forest School and how important it is to use our listening ears. Once these are established we will use the bow saw and hammers and nails under adult supervision. This will encourage creativity whilst building up fine motor skills. We will have the tools out for several weeks to encourage the children to have a go and build up confidence. Amongst this we will have our usual favourites of the mud kitchen, bug hunting, loose parts and the swing where the children will using their gross motor skills. Many of the activities will be linked to our Amazing Animal topic.