

# Theme: 'Me in my Local Area'

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

September is the time for introducing everybody to their new classroom and learning all about school life. It is an important time to help our 'newest recruits' to feel safe and confident in their new environment. They will need to learn how to work and play together using our 'Federations Expectations'. The values of friendship, forgiveness, honesty, trust and hope, our school values, will help them in this. They will think about how they are the same and different from their friends and explore the different emotions people have. We will practise keeping ourselves safe and healthy, both with our personal hygiene as well as making good choices.

'Commander Joe' missions will build our learning in 'Teamwork', 'Communication' and 'Resilience' as well as being lots of fun!

## Physical Development

During the term we will meet our specialist PE teacher. She will help us learn and develop our gross motor skills through 'multi-skills' activities. 'Commander Joe' missions will build our physical skills too as we carry, balance and manipulate the equipment to achieve the challenges set. Both inside and outside we will develop our fine motor and gross motor skills; using a variety of tools to create, build, paint and collage; both on a large and small scale. We will continue to develop using scissors and develop our grip to use our writing tools appropriately. We will be introduced to how to form our letters correctly as we learn our sounds for reading and writing.

## Communication and Language

After the long summer holiday it is vital that we have the opportunity to talk about, share and compare our thoughts and ideas. This communication is important giving us opportunities to share any worries as well as create exciting ideas for new stories. We will need to learn to listen to our friend's ideas too, which can be challenging at the start. We will be sharing books, including stories and poems, about ourselves as well as the world around us, especially Farms; exploring new vocabulary we may find there. We will enjoy singing songs both old and new. We will talk about and plan how we will undertake new challenges and consider the successes we have.

## Mathematics

Learning to love numbers is an important part of Reception. We will be counting anything and everything! Counting in rote, up to **and back** from different numbers is important to practise. We will of course practice recognising numerals and also having a go at writing them correctly too. It is important to understand what these numerals mean and will spend time manipulating numbers within 5, even if we know many of the bigger numbers. We will learn that the numbers up to 5 and above can be made in different ways and shown in a variety of forms, 'Subitising'.

Games are a great way to enhance number work too, as well as being fun!

Learning through games and puzzles helps to provide children with the opportunity to develop their mathematical language and understanding. We will explore shapes and patterns in the environment; having the opportunity to create patterns and pictures using a variety of different shapes. We will use language such as 'flat' and 'solid', 'straight' and 'curved' to describe the shapes we find and use.

## Literacy

Much of our Literacy will involve the learning of our phonics sounds linking with the Read, Write Inc. phonics programme. This will include learning to hear, say, identify and write the phonemes and graphemes needed for reading and writing. Additional help, through the sound cards which will be sent home, will give your child confidence in their learning.

We will share stories, poems and non-fiction texts together, with opportunities to spot and use the phonics we have been learning. We will start our journey of being brave with our sounds, linking them wherever possible into the activities we are undertaking. We will have the opportunity to practice 'blending' the sounds together to hear the words that they make. We will be having a go at writing words and captions, as well as practising writing our names; perfecting the correct letter formation as we go.

We will experience different styles of writing; labels, captions, titles, lists and instructions and begin to try them out for ourselves.

## Understanding of the World

The Autumn Term provides many opportunities for celebrations with our family and friends as well as learning about celebrations from different beliefs such as the Jewish celebrations of Rosh Hashanah and Hanukkah. This term we will learn about the ideas behind our school's Christian ethos; being given the opportunity to take part in simple worship within the classroom and within our local Church building. This will include our Federation Prayer which we say at the end of each day. We will consider how Christians believe the world was created and think about how and why we need to look after our world.

It is a great time to look closely at the changes that occur during the seasons of autumn and winter; to observe the changing world around our school.

We will be learning about people who are 'special' to us and talk about people in the wider community. We will explore our locality, using simple maps and aerial views of the school; seeing how farming plays an important role around us.

## Expressive Arts and Design

Autumn offers us the opportunity to look closely at the many colours around us, and the changes that occur in nature. We can learn about colour mixing, creating different hues and shades of primary and secondary colours. During harvest-time, we will look closely at different fruits and vegetables using them in our painting, printing and drawings. In addition, we will consider and look closely at our own faces; eyes, hair, skin colour and use our observations to create portraits.

Our role play story telling will help us to enhance our learning as we think about farmers and those who help us in our community.

We will have opportunities to enjoy and explore the music we hear; sharing opinions about what we hear. There will be time to clap and move to the pulse and rhythms, as well as experiment with various tuned and untuned instruments.

**Thursdays:** Come to school in PE kit!

**Fridays:** Return 'Home/ School Journal' book to school