



## Hatfield Heath Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back and a happy new year! We hope that you had a wonderful break. After a busy and exciting term of fairy tales and pantomimes, we are looking forward to beginning some new topics. Our main theme this term will be the zoo, which will be explored across a number of subjects. We will begin introducing the zoo theme in our English lessons, discussing the things we know already and extending our knowledge further. We will be reading Anthony Browne's book, Zoo, and discussing characters, events, predictions and identifying some favourite words and phrases. There will be plenty of opportunity for role play and hot seating characters before we practise rewriting the story from an alternative viewpoint. Children will be encouraged to practise retelling stories that they have read, and this would be great to practise at home too. Our class hand puppet, Oliver the Orangutan, has already played a starring role in introducing this topic and has helped the children to consider character's feelings in more depth.

The children have already taken a great interest in both the stories and information books linked to our animal topic in school. If your children are enthusiastic about the topic, please do encourage them to talk, read and research, through books or websites. Reading is so vitally important for children at this age, and we whole-heartedly support daily reading and the impact it has on developing understanding, pace, fluency and overall enjoyment. We aim to encourage children to be passionate about text and inquisitive in nature. Daily reading supports a child's progress in all areas of learning, and we cannot emphasise its value strongly enough.

The children will explore the zoo theme in other subjects. In Science the children will be discussing how animals have offspring that grow into adults. We will think about how people change as they grow from babies into children. Throughout the unit we will look at various animal life cycles and find out what animals need to survive. We will discover that we,, as humans, are in fact animals and learn that we need certain things to stay fit and healthy. In Music we will begin a reggae unit called Zootime. Children will learn a selection of animal related songs. PE will link together nicely as children cover a yoga unit. Many balances and postures that we will be covering are linked to nature in some way. We hope children will develop core strength, coordination, flexibility, and focus during these lessons, which will aid them in a number of other areas of learning. Links to online yoga sessions that can be completed at home will be posted on our online classroom at <https://missmissblog.wordpress.com/> during the term. If there are any yoga instructors amongst our parents that would like to help out, we would warmly welcome your support!

In addition to the above themes, we will be making some comparisons to significant historic figures in both History and Art. In History, we will be studying Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. Children will have the opportunity to recognise the lives of people that have contributed to national and international achievements. We hope that Florence Nightingale might even make a visit to Hatfield Heath one day!

In Art, we will be focusing on the works of LS Lowry and Brueghel the Elder. During this topic we will use a range of materials creatively to design our own works in the style of these artists. We will develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space in a variety of ways. We will also spend time comparing and contrasting various works and discussing our likes and dislikes about each. In light of the fairy tale setting's home learning being so popular, we plan to encourage children to complete some related art work at home again this term.

In Maths we will be consolidating and developing an understanding of a range of areas. We will begin by studying number and place value by counting in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in tens from any number, forward and backwards. We will recognise the place value of each digit in a two-digit number (tens, ones) and compare and order numbers from 0 - 100, (using  $<$ ,  $>$  and  $=$  signs). Children will practise reading and writing numbers to at least 100 in numerals and in words. Children will solve addition and subtraction problems and apply their increasing knowledge of mental and written methods. They will practise the recall and use of addition and subtraction facts to 20 and 100. To secure their understanding we will learn to recognise the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction and the way we can use this to check calculations and solve missing number problems. Later in the term we will move on to multiplication and division where children will be expected to learn, recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables. To support your children at home it would be helpful to practise "real life" maths at every opportunity such as telling the time, paying for items in the shops and calculating change and practising times tables by counting in groups. Now is the perfect time for your child to start that 2p, 5p and 10p collection! Occasions to cook and build at home are also incredibly valuable learning opportunities and provide children with time to practise measures within a context.

Whilst still delivering a varied and engaging curriculum, there will be a strong focus on developing the skills needed to support the children in preparation for their SATs tests. These are National tests that Year 2 children will take later in the year that the school uses to inform assessments at the end of KS1. If you would like to buy any material to support your children we would recommend the CGP SATs practice papers and targeted questions books.

If you have any questions about the areas mentioned above, or any other aspects of Year 2, please don't hesitate to connect us.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Ingrouille