

Our topic this half term is all about farms and farming. Here are some of our initial planned activity ideas -

Communication and Language	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the crops grown on a farm. Give the children some raw carrot to try and ask them to describe the taste and texture. Next, give them a cooked carrot. Can they describe how it is different?</li> <li>• Talk about the names of vehicles used on a farm. Model using these new words in your small world play.</li> <li>• Set up a small world farm and make deliberate mistakes when describing your farm, such as pointing to the pigs when saying, 'Wow, there are lots of sheep in this field!'</li> <li>• Share the story, '<a href="#">Wake-Up Time on Bumble Farm</a>'. Can the children recall and retell the story?</li> <li>• Sing 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm' and encourage the children to draw pictures of the animals they sing about.</li> <li>• Create farm animal stick puppets and create stories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share the story of '<a href="#">The Little Red Hen</a>'. Talk about how the hen felt at different points in the story. Do the children think the animals in the story were good friends?</li> <li>• Plant seeds, encouraging the children to take turns planting, watering and caring for their plant. Cress works well as it grows very quickly!</li> <li>• Talk about patience when growing plants. Can the children think of a time when they were patient?</li> <li>• Hold a vote for favourite farm animals. Can the children put a peg on the picture of their favourite animal? Talk about the results of the vote. Did everyone like the same animal? Talk about everyone having their own choices.</li> <li>• Challenge the children to create pictures of farm animals using loose parts. Can they decide as a group which animal to create?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a simple farm-themed obstacle course. Can the children carry a small bag of flour or jug of milk over the course?</li> <li>• Encourage lifting, stacking and carrying in a farm role-play area. Outside, provide crates, bags of hay or straw, gardening tools and large soft toy animals.</li> <li>• Sing '<a href="#">Dingle Dangle Scarecrow</a>' and ask the children to think of actions to match the song.</li> <li>• Play a farm-themed throwing and catching game with a beach ball. Explain to the children that they have to pass the ball to each other and when you catch the ball, you have to shout out the name of a farm animal.</li> <li>• Chalk some fields and fences on the ground and provide coloured chalks for the children to fill the farm with animals of their choice.</li> <li>• Target games on a farm theme.</li> </ul>



Old Macdonald



Mrs Tyson, Miss Watt & Mrs Reeve

Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place <a href="#">On the Farm Early Writing Activities</a> in continuous provision for children to access independently.</li> <li>• Fill a large activity tray with shaving foam and brown paint. Can the children write tricky words in the 'mud'?</li> <li>• Write some simple CVC words on real or role-play vegetables and place them in a tray filled with soil. Encourage children to dig up the crops and read the words they find.</li> <li>• Model how to write clues for a 'guess the animal' riddle. Support children in writing their own. Make some work for a display, with the children's clues on a folded piece of card and a drawing of the animal underneath.</li> <li>• Provide a range of fiction and non-fiction books about farms.</li> <li>• Label a farm picture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of paper shapes for the children to create pictures of farm animals. Challenge them further by only providing one shape, such as triangles. Can they make shapes within shapes?</li> <li>• During snack time, hand out pea pods for the children to open. Can they subitise how many they have? Can they compare how many they have with the person next to them?</li> <li>• Hide groups of farm animals under a cloth. Take one (or more) animal from a group. Can the children say which group is smaller? How many are left? Etc.</li> <li>• Explore composition of numbers to ten with the children using the <a href="#">Ducks in a Pond Activity</a>.</li> <li>• Feed the farm animals the correct number of corn cobs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at an aerial view of our school. Can the children see any land which could be a farm? Can they say why they think that? Discuss our local area.</li> <li>• Talk about the different times of the year which are important for farmers, such as harvest time or when it's time to sow seeds.</li> <li>• Place some small world farm animals on a large piece of paper outside. Encourage the children to draw around the shadows cast by the animals. Revisit this activity throughout the day and discuss how the shadows have changed.</li> <li>• Share the <a href="#">Grandad's Farm eBook</a> with the children and discuss the jobs that need to be done on a farm.</li> <li>• Match farm animals to their babies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the children to use a range of joining techniques to make a fence for some small world farm animals.</li> <li>• Create large collage farm animals. Provide a range of materials for children to experiment with. Then, display the final animals.</li> <li>• Use <a href="#">Farmer's in His Den Headbands</a> to encourage the children to act out the song to their own music.</li> <li>• Invite the children to create their own piece of music in response to different animals, such as spring lambs. Can they select the instruments they want to use and possibly make some movements to match their music?</li> <li>• Create large group pieces of Art work for the Farm/Farm shop role play area.</li> </ul>

Further subject information can be found on our class webpage - <https://ellelstjohns.school/classes/acorn-class/>