

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to announce that our new topic across the Early Years will be **Animals of the United Arab Emirates**. We expect that the children will make great strides in their learning through this topic and we know that they will be able to contribute considerably through their own knowledge and experiences.

Here is a taster of some of the skills we will develop and the activities that we will do:-

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children are encouraged to communicate freely about home and community, and to have a developing respect for own cultures and beliefs and those of other people.

These will be developed through work about the children's personal experience of living in Dubai and places that are important to them through discussion, paintings, drawings etc and also through learning something about the culture, landscape, plants and animals of Dubai through discussion, stories and information books.

The children are also learning to be interested, motivated and excited to learn and to select and use activities and resources independently. Our whole hands-on, experiential approach will foster these.

#### Communication, Language and Literacy

The children will be using language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences, listening with enjoyment to stories, songs, rhymes, poems etc. and to attempt writing for a variety of purposes.

All of these will be developed through our focus stories, The Camel That Got Away and Camel O'Shy with accompanying puppet making and role play. We will also learn Arabic greetings, rhymes and look at Arabic script.

#### Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

The children will recognise, count and order numbers to 9 and in practical activities begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting. They will also talk about, recognize and recreate simple patterns.

All of these will be developed through counting and sequencing in the stories, through role play and through the exploration of pattern as found in The Camel That Got Away story and through patterns found in henna and Arabic art.

## Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This underpins the entire topic by investigating places, objects, materials and living things by using all the senses as appropriate.

The children will share and talk about places they have visited in Dubai and learn about the local environment including the park, beach and desert environments and the animals that live there. They will recreate these in the role play areas.

## Creative Development

The children will try to capture experiences using a variety of different media, sing simple songs from memory and explore colour, texture, shape, form and space in two or three dimensions.

All of these will be developed through drawing, painting and model making with a variety of media and through listening to and learning music and songs.

## Physical Development

The children will move with confidence, imagination and in safety and handle tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with basic control.

These skills will be developed through movement (stamping like a...hopping like a...plodding like a...etc.) and through the exploration of clay, playdough and other construction materials.

We hope that you will enjoy hearing about all the exciting things that will be happening throughout the classrooms. Please do come forward if you have any ideas you would like to share to help us with our work.

Many thanks,

The Early Years Team