Our topic this term is **Animal Magic!** We hope this topic web will give you some idea of the work your child will be involved in during this term.
We would very much appreciate donations of any medical equipment, plasters, small medicine bottles and spoons, pet accessories, animal magazines, pictures/photos of animals, pets and insects, hobby horses. If you have any pets who could visit or know any vets / veterinary nurses who would like to visit the children and talk to the children about their job we'd love to hear from you.

Mathematics

Begin to measure length by direct comparison. Join in with opportunities to measure e.g. with height charts, measuring animals by comparing, use language related to size and weight.
Talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns. Look at patterns in nature, patterns on animals.
Begin to recognise numerals 1 to 5 and beyond.
Count everyday objects reliably up to 10 and beyond.
Sort objects into groups and think about comparing groups and adding them together. Discover all the different ways to make 5. Use 5 frames.
Familiarise themselves with coins in role play of pet shop/ vets, use one pence coins to pay accurately.
Shows interest in shapes in the environment and similarities and differences of shapes.

Communication, Language & Literacy

Begin to be aware of the way stories are structured through animal related books e.g. Dear Zoo, The Great Pet Sale, Mog and the V.E.T.
Begin to show awareness of rhyme and alliteration, listen to and join in with a variety of poems. Hear and say the initial letter sound in words.
Practice writing through role play opportunities giving meaning to marks as they draw and paint, name their work.
Begin to use talk to explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next, through acting out a story, use props, magnetic storyboards, small world characters and puppets.
Ask questions and ask why things happen begin to give explanations.

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Physical Development

Using music and movement, have opportunities for the children to recreate with their bodies the movements of animals, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding and hopping.
Play simple games with rules.
Create and explore obstacle courses such as a dog agility course, learn about balancing, climbing and jumping.
Develop fine motor skills through using tweezers, scissors and one-handed tools and equipment. Focus on drawing.
Think about healthy food stuffs for both pets and ourselves and begin to understand the need for a variety of food.

Expressive Arts and Design

Draw and paint a variety of animals. Focus on sketching in detail, observing and talking about examples.
Opportunity for role-play, exploring different implements, tools and costumes e.g. vets, pet shop, doggy day care, dog walking café.
Learn about animals through drama sessions with Dani.
Learn a selection of songs relevant to the topic such as 'We're going to the Zoo,' 'How much is that doggy in the window.'
Explore a range of percussion instruments to accompany songs. Learn about pitch and pace.
Make junk materials to create models of animals.

Personal & Social Development

Have a sense of self as a member of different communities.
Begin to understand that people come in different sizes and colours, that the make up of families are all unique.
Develop awareness of how to take care of living things i.e. pets, insects and our guinea pigs / tortoise.
Take more responsibility and carry out small tasks involved in caring for the Nursery pets, understand the need to be gentle and calm when handling them.

Computing

Use a selection of video clips to explore and learn about a variety of animals.
Become more familiar using the interactive smartboard.
Observe how the computer can be used to find out information. Begin to name computer hardware such as keyboard, monitor, hard drive.

Understanding the World

Examine objects and living things to find out more about them.
Learn that animals come in different shapes and sizes and begin to classify and sort them by where they are found e.g. zoo / farm/ a domestic pet.
Begin to understand what animals need and how to take care of them.
Show care and concern for living things and the environment.
Play with small world animals such as farms and zoo animals and begin to classify those animals, commenting on similarities and differences.
Visits from pets and their owners.