

# Virtual Handsworth Pre-School: Weekly Bulletin



This week's bulletin has been prepared by: Janet

My favourite thing about Pre-School this week might have been: Stomping like an elephant in the garden

Our focus for the week is: Endangered animals and zoos

## Pre-School Leader's News:

As I am sure you know from the news, the Government is planning to announce some next steps at the end this week. In anticipation, we have begun to think about the Pre-School's next steps and to plan for our reopening. We are still thinking through the next steps, to make sure that when we do open, the Pre-School provides a safe environment for the children, families and staff. If you have any comments or suggestions, please do let us know. Otherwise, please keep an eye on your email inboxes. I will give you as much notice of the arrangements as possible. I very much look forward to seeing you again soon!

It is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day on Friday. At Pre-School we would focus on 'red, white and blue', and perhaps look at our country's flag. We would talk to the children about how people in our families (grandparents, great grandparents) celebrated peace and recognised people who were very brave and helped to keep us safe. If you have friends or relatives in the Armed Forces you can perhaps also talk to your children about the current role the Services are playing to keep us safe. There are lots of resources online – and some colouring sheets attached.

This week, we're thinking about wild animals, and some of those endangered species that are looked after by zoos. Chester Zoo have posted on Facebook some live feeds of their – live feeds! These are quite fun to watch and provide an opportunity for the children to see some animals they may only have seen in picture books. It also introduces some unusual and different animals. <https://www.facebook.com/chesterzoo1/>

Thank you also to those of you who have sent pictures or comments to the Pre-School email box over the last few weeks. It really makes our day to hear from you and to see what the children have been doing. Please feel free to let us know what you're up to – you can also put pictures etc in your book bag so we can talk about them when we're back.

If you need to contact me, please do so on the setting phone number: 07860 655066 or via [handsworthpreschooleader@outlook.com](mailto:handsworthpreschooleader@outlook.com); or Ruth on 07932 154133 or [info@handsworthpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@handsworthpreschool.co.uk).

Best wishes to you all, Janet

## Craft Activities:

**Binoculars:** use loo rolls (if you wish), kitchen roll insides or make your own tubes out of stiff paper/light card. (I even saw some using soft foam curlers.) Decorate any way you wish. If you decorate your binoculars in an animal pattern, perhaps think about the idea of 'camouflage' or 'hiding'.

**Paper plate zoo:** there is no end to the number of animals you can create from a paper plate... or from more **paper rolls...**

**...or from hand or feet prints.** Make your own zoo! (Some of these pictures are quite small – Google 'animal handprints for children' if you need any more inspiration.) No paint – no worries! Use pens, pencils, crayons, coloured paper – or even just draw on features. You can also get creative with textures – use wool, fabric, buttons (if you have them). You can raid the kitchen cupboards for things that are 'rough' or 'smooth'. What about 'shiny' or 'colourful' creatures – chameleons, butterflies etc.



**Milk bottle elephants** (all grey or colourful) and **threaded pasta (or cheerio) snakes** are also quite fun to do.

### Play Ideas:

**Go on safari** – around your house, on your daily walk, up at Highams Park lake (I'm convinced there are some crocodiles in there somewhere...) Have you seen any of the turtles in the lakes? You can be quite creative – you'll need to look very carefully for the animals as they are very well camouflaged...

**Create a hide** – a good 'den' idea is to create an animal watching 'hide' under a table, between two chairs, using a pop up tent etc. Can you find sheets, blankets etc that might look a bit like an animal? What animals are you watching? Are on the plains in Africa? In the polar regions (wrap up warm!)? In the jungle? What can you see? Shhh....what can you hear? (Animal soundtracks are easy to find online and are fun to tune in to – what animals can you hear?)

**Move like an animal** – stomp, flutter, gallop, wriggle, bounce, creep, soar, hop, fly, flop, burrow...

**Animal rescue** - can you be a vet? Can you rescue an animal from a tree? On top of a cupboard? The animals have escaped from the zoo – can you find them?

**Animal lunch** – what do animals like to eat? If you do watch some of the Chester Zoo videos – what foods do the animals eat that you like to eat? What foods do they eat that you wouldn't eat? Can you have a 'animal' salad for lunch? Are you eating like a lemur etc?

### Books, Stories, Rhymes Etc

Doing the Animal Bop – Jan Ormerod  
Walking Through the Jungle – Julia Lacombe  
Walking Through the Jungle – Stella Blackstone  
Giraffe's Can't Dance – Giles Andreae  
The Lion and the Mouse – Miles Kelly  
The Selfish Crocodile – Faustin Charles  
Underwater Farmyard – Carol Ann Duffy  
Dear Zoo – Rod Campbell  
Lazy Lion; Greedy Zebra; Laughing Giraffe (African Animal Tales) – Mwenye Hdithi

Old MacDonald had a Zoo...

Row Row Row Your Boat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rafox-9P3r8>

Animal Fair

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbckvW-mjFA>

Going to the Zoo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQJ8JlzSjsU>

### At-Home Learning

## ANIMAL RESCUE MISSION

(Fine Motor Skill Challenge for Kids!)



### Exploring Number and Shape:

**Playdough, paperchain or pasta/cheerio snakes** – can you roll out some snakes from playdough and make them different lengths? Can you decorate your snakes in a repeating pattern?



**Animal rescue** – your play animals have got tangled up in some elastic bands (or hair bands). Can you rescue them by taking off the bands one by one?

**Shadow drawing** – can you draw around the shadow of your toys? Which one is the tallest? Which one is the smallest? (If you leave them there...does the shadow move...?) Can you order your toys – heaviest to the lightest? Biggest to smallest? Which ones are 'in the middle'?

If you have the hanging monkeys game – that is good for sorting, counting and ordering, too



