

News from the Early Years Team

April 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday, and join us in looking forward to the run up to May break. Before we finished Term 4, the children decided they would like their new topic for Term 5 to be 'Dinosaurs'!

Dinosaurs

During this topic we will become palaeontologists and learn about the different types of dinosaurs that roamed the land and sky. We will learn a range of new vocabulary linked with what they looked like, how long ago they lived and what they liked to eat. We will consider how to compare the sizes of the dinosaurs compared with known objects such as school and ourselves.



Fiction - We will read texts such as 'Harry and his bucketful of dinosaurs' and 'Dinosaurs love underpants!' and these will become the focus of our writing, where we shall continue to practise our skills of building words, using finger spaces, capital letters and full stops.

Non-Fiction – We will consult a range of non-fiction texts to learn about the dinosaurs that interest us. We will continue to extend our knowledge of how to navigate non-fiction books to retrieve information quickly. We will write facts about our favourite dinosaurs which we learn about in the texts and create our own class dinosaur non-fiction book!

Literacy

In addition to this, we will continue to teach reading and writing through the phonics scheme, *Read, Write Inc.*

We will be revising the sounds already taught daily, and continue teaching new sounds (long vowels) weekly, as appropriate. The children will continue to practise blending sounds together to read and write simple and increasingly more complex words as well as 'red' words. We will also continue to develop how to structure a sentence using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops, encouraging this with greater independence. We will also look to embed the learning of how to join two sentences together with a connective and begin to use 'because' when giving a reason for choices.

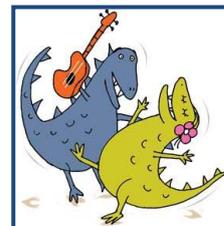
To finish we will write our own acrostic poems about dinosaurs to combine our knowledge and understanding throughout the term.

Maths

During this term we will continue to consolidate and expand our knowledge of number; recognising an increasing amount of numbers as well as continuing to count in jumps of 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s and 100s. We shall apply this knowledge of number in word problems involving addition and subtraction. We will also revisit how to read measures of length, weight and volume and offer opportunities to become increasingly independent and accurate when recording these measures with standard units.

Music

We shall be exploring a range of musical instruments this term and will be discussing the meaning of special musical words that can be used to describe music including; pitch, duration, dynamics and tempo. We shall be using our musical skills to develop sounds that match how our favourite dinosaur may move and we shall be beginning to understand syllables by tapping instruments to dinosaur names.



Contributions

Thank you again to all who have contributed by lending us objects and artefacts and by getting involved with helping out in the classroom, we value your effort and time.

Our stock of crafty bits and junk modelling is now low again so if you are able to donate any recycling we would be grateful, the children thoroughly enjoy modelling!

Role play Area

This term the children will have access to a:

- Dinosaur digging site

If you have anything at home (or work) that you could donate or lend us for these areas, or know of someone else who can, it would be greatly appreciated, such as...

Dinosaur digging site

Posters/ Books
Magnifying glasses
Old paintbrushes

Requests/ Reminders

- ➡ Please can I remind everyone that children should NOT be playing on or with equipment before and after school. This equipment is for break times and lunch times only.
- ➡ We will be enjoying two different P.E. sessions this term, gymnastics led by me, so your child will require indoor PE kit and bat and ball skills led by FDS so they will require outdoor clothing including trainers or plimsolls and a sweater.
- ➡ Again, please ensure that ALL CLOTHING IS NAMED. Please do bear with us if a named item of your child's clothing does go missing. Usually, this is because another child has put it on and gone home wearing it. If this is the case, clothing is usually returned as soon as the name tag is identified.
- ➡ Some children have started to bring toys into school again; please can I remind you that ALL toys should be left at home.

Thank you for all of your support. We hope that you and your child have a great term. Please do not hesitate to come and see us with any queries or concerns.

Miss Henson
Phase Leader