



Reception Newsletter

Summer Term 2 2024/25



Welcome back to Summer 2. We hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break.

Our topic for Summer 1 is Dinosaurs! We will be reading all about dinosaurs, learning lots of new facts and exploring some of the scientists who researched dinosaurs and fossils.

Please see below for ideas on how you can explore this topic with your child at home.

Key Words

- Extinct
- Fossil
- Jungle
- Desert
- Mountains
- Volcanoes
- Ocean
- Bones
- Scales
- Plates
- Long, long ago
- Before

Books to read at home

- Harry and the Dinosaurs series
- Welcome to Dinosaur School
- Dinosaur Zoo

There are many Dinosaur fact books available, such as:

- My Encyclopaedia of Very Important Dinosaurs
- Little Kids' First Book of Dinosaurs (National Geographic Kids)
- Questions and Answers about Dinosaurs
- A First Book of Dinosaurs

Ideas to try at home

- Can your child make a sock puppet dinosaur?
- Can you make dinosaurs from playdough?
- Especially fun on warmer days, freeze a toy dinosaur inside a balloon. Can the children free the dinosaur?
- Trip to the Natural History Museum
- Trip to Crystal Palace Park to see the dinosaur statues



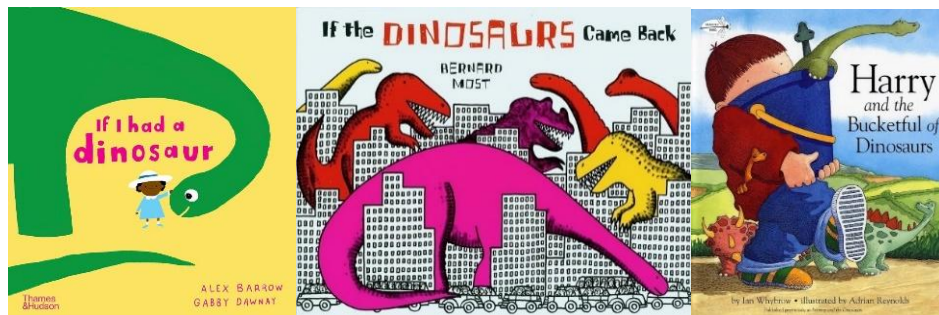
In literacy we will be reading *If I had a Dinosaur*, *If the Dinosaurs Came Back*, *Harry and the Dinosaurs* and various non-fiction texts about dinosaurs.

In this final term, we are working on using our sounds in our writing, including phase 3 and 4. We are also making sure we are using our 'tricky word' mats to help us with the correct spellings, remember to use capital letters at the beginning of sentences and for names, and using finger spaces between words and full stops at the end of sentences.

The children have also been working hard on their correct letter formation. This is important as it makes writing a lot easier as they begin to write larger amounts. If you would like a sheet with the letter formation ditties that we use at school, please ask your child's teacher.

Here are some ideas for writing activities you can do at home:

- Ask your child to help write the shopping list. They can use the phonics that they know to spell most words phonetically.
- Matching lower case and capital letters.



Maths

This half-term in Maths we will be continuing to practise and consolidate our skills in subitising, counting, composition and comparing amounts. We are also continuing to consolidate number facts, such as the number bonds to all numbers up to 10 and exploring number to 20. We will also be solving more number problems including doubling and sharing and recapping the concept of odd and even.

Here are some ideas to support your child at home:

- Play Doubles-The children take turns to roll 2 dice. They score a point each time they roll a double. The first to reach 3 points wins the game.
- Teddy Bears' Picnic- Using teddy bears, plates and small quantities of 'loose parts' representing food items e.g. buttons, pencils, etc. ask your child to share out the loose parts fairly so that each teddy gets the same. Are there any items left over? What will happen if another teddy joins the picnic?



Phonics



During phonics we will continue recapping phase 3 sounds. Some children will also be learning phase 4 sounds too. Phase 4 sounds are consonant clusters (consonants which are often found together and which children should get used to blending) such as “fr” in “frog” and “pt” in “kept”. We do not teach these as new sounds and we encourage children to continue saying each sound individually (eg f-r-o-g).

Please do continue to ensure you are reading with your child daily. The home reading books support our phonics scheme and therefore it is vital that children read at home regularly to enable them to make as much progress as possible.

Finally, please ensure you are also practising the tricky words that have been sent home. If you require a new set, please speak to your child’s class teacher.

Reading

We kindly ask that you continue to read with your child and sign their reading diary each day. Children should be reading their books a minimum of 3 times to ensure they are understanding the sentences they are reading, and have the opportunity to become more fluent. A strong reading routine at home is essential to helping your child make steady progress. We are ambitious for your child’s success and believe that consistent home reading is key to supporting their development throughout the year.

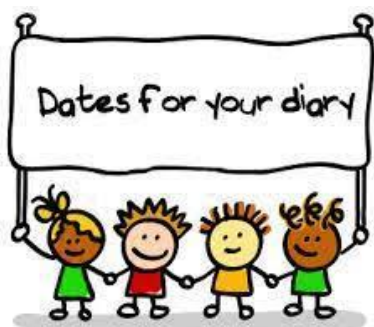


Other information

Reminder -

Nature Garden - Sunshine and Moonbeam on Tuesday (please bring wellies if possible).

PE – Moonbeam on Thursday, Sunshine on Fridays (please can the children wear trainers and avoid tights if possible).



Dinosaur and Fossil Workshop (at school) – Wednesday 18th June

Moonbeam Library Trip – Thursday 19th June

Sunshine Library Trip - Friday 27th June

Sport’s Day – Wednesday 9th July (AM)

Carnival – Thursday 17th July, 2pm

Class Party and non-uniform day – Monday 21st July

Last day of term, 2pm finish (no After School Club) – Tuesday 22nd July