

DINOSAUR DETECTIVES!



During this topic, we want our children to embark on a journey back in time, using their imagination to explore the fascinating world of dinosaurs. We'll delve into the realms of carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores, naming various dinosaurs while learning about the incredible era in which they lived. Our aim is to develop 'Right Attitudes for Life', inspiring them to care for our planet and prevent animal extinction, much like the fate faced by dinosaurs. By fostering 'Wonder and Awe' through the discovery of these ancient creatures, we align with our 'GROW' ethos, igniting a passion for the natural world in our young learners.



Communication and Language

During this half term we will be concentrating on expanding the children's vocabulary and for them to start using their words to communicate with their friends. We will also be emphasising the importance of listening to each other and to the staff. We will encourage eye contact as much as is possible to encourage engagement.



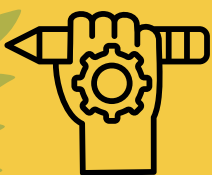
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

It is very important that children learn to get along with each other. Some children find this easier than others. As staff, we will work with the children in the areas to ensure that they learn to share, form friendships with staff and peers and begin to self-regulate.



Physical Development

We look at both gross and fine motor skills and develop both of these during your child's time in EYFS. In Nursery we concentrate on developing muscle tone in the core with tummy time, play dough, threading, bike riding etc to develop the whole body ready to start writing in FS2. These early steps are crucial in a child's development.



Literacy

During this term we will be focussing on the children producing work that is 'recognisable' and working on name recognition and name writing. We will continue with our phonics; clapping syllables (ask them to clap a word with different amount of syllables e.g. cat, umbrella etc.), thinking about what letter a word begins with (play I spy), recognising letters that are significant to them in the environment e.g. "That letter is in my name."



Maths

Throughout Spring 1 we will be learning about the numbers 5,6&7. We will learn how these can be represented on our fingers, how they can be split in different ways but still be the same number, e.g. $4+1=5$, $3+2=5$ etc. We will be recalling the names of 2D shapes and their properties and beginning to learn the names of 3D shapes. We will also be working on



number recognition to 10



Expressive Arts

Linking to our topic, we will be making lots of dinosaur themed pictures/creations and teaching them new techniques for painting and creating. There will also be the usual paint and creative materials out for their own designs and to replicate things that we have taught them



Understanding the World

This half term we will be looking at dinosaur in our topic "Dinosaur Detectives". We will learn about the different types of dinosaurs, how they are different from each other, what they ate, and what possibly happened to them.

This will all be done through our books and will link in to our Literacy, Communication and Language and expressive Arts.



Books we will read this term ... Gracie

Grumposaurus

If I had a Dinosaur

Dear Dinosaur

Dinosaurs Love Underpants

The Dinosaur who Pooped a Planet

Each half term we will also cover a traditional tale:

Little Red Riding Hood



And a whole lot of reading for pleasure books!



And remember...

reading to a child six to seven days a week puts them almost a year ahead of those who are not being read to!



Physical Development - Things I can do at home ...



As mentioned previously, we look at both gross and fine motor skills during your child's time in EYFS. At home, you can encourage your child to play on their tummy, e.g. with cars, blocks, dolls, reading books etc., thread pasta onto an old shoe lace, play with play dough (watch Dough Disco clips on YouTube), use pegs to pick things up (socks, pants) or to help hang the washing out, play with Lego/Duplo (pushing and pulling it together/ apart is good for muscle development) ... For more gross motor development you can encourage your child to use a two-wheel scooter, ride a bike, kick and catch a ball ... and have



lots of fun doing it!



If your child is still finding number recognition difficult, pointing out numbers at home in the environment (car registrations, door numbers etc) is a great way to help them learn.



Other Information ...

We will be learning about Mary Annig who is a female Palaeontologist. We will learn what a palaeontologist is and how important it is in finding out about dinosaurs.

We will also learn about the artist Henri Matisse. We will create a collage inspired by his work.

There will be many more things along the way that will be picked up with the children's interests that we don't know about yet ...

Some Key Vocabulary

Dinosaur omnivore carnivore
herbivore Palaeontologist
Mary Anning extinct

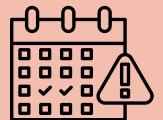
Key Questions

What is your favourite dinosaur?
What is a carnivore, omnivore and herbivore?

What is an palaeontologist?
How do people find out about dinosaurs?
Can you name any dinosaurs?



Dates for your Diary ...



30.1.25-2.2.25 National Story Telling Week

30.1.25-7.2.25 - Mystery Reader each morning or afternoon from 9am or 3pm.
For this we will be asking parents to volunteer to read their favourite book to the class (But it's a secret so don't tell the children! More information to follow).

10.2.25 Parents' Meetings

11.2.25 Safer Internet day

14.2.25 INSET DAY - School closed to children