



Robin's class- Reception Spring Term 1- Newsletter 'The Land of Dinosaurs'



Dear Parents or Carers,

Welcome back! We are so excited to share what your children will be learning this half term in Reception. Our brand-new topic is...

The Land of Dinosaurs!

This half term, we will be travelling back in time as we explore the fascinating world of dinosaurs. The children will be:

- Learning what dinosaurs were and what life was like in dinosaur times.
- Discovering fossils and turning into real-life palaeontologists.
- Researching a famous fossil hunter, Mary Anning, and learning about her incredible discoveries along the Dorset coast.

All of this exciting learning will lead up to our very own Dinosaur Museum, created in the classroom and filled with the children's work, models, writing, and discoveries. Parents will be invited to visit during the final week of term (date to be confirmed – more details coming soon!).

Phonics

In phonics, we are now learning our Blue Sounds (Phase 3 phonics). This includes:

- Digraphs (two letters making one sound, e.g. sh, ch, ai, ee)
- Trigraphs (three letters making one sound, e.g. igh, ear, air)

We will be reading and writing words such as moon, rain, light, sheep, and goat, and we will begin writing simple sentences independently. We will also continue learning more tricky words.

We love using this catchy song to practise tricky words in class – feel free to enjoy it at home too:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ri4u0TjAZ38>





Maths

Alongside our daily maths lessons, we will continue with our Maths Mastery sessions, which are woven throughout the week. These sessions focus on developing deep understanding of number.

Through practical, hands-on activities, children will:

Develop a strong understanding of numbers and their value

Use concrete resources such as cubes, counters, tens frames and numicon

Explore numbers through play, discussion and problem solving

Learn that numbers can be represented in different ways (objects, pictures, and numerals)

Key Number Sense Skills We Will Be Developing

Counting accurately and knowing when to stop

Subitising (recognising small quantities without counting)

Understanding more, less and equal

Exploring part-part-whole (how numbers are made up and broken apart)

Beginning to explain their thinking using maths language

Handwriting – Ready to Write!

We are starting our daily handwriting sessions this week. Which includes lots of fine and gross motor activities. Before children can write confidently, it's important they develop strong gross motor and fine motor skills.

Gross motor skills involve large movements (arms, legs, balance and posture)

Fine motor skills involve small movements of the hands and fingers, which are essential for writing, cutting, buttoning, and everyday independence

Children develop these skills at different rates, and that is completely normal. We only encourage formal handwriting once children are developmentally ready and confident.

In school, we support this through lots of fun activities such as:

Messy play (sand, paint, playdough, clay)

Yoga, gymnastics and movement sessions

Cutting, building, threading, painting and construction

Trying similar activities at home will really support your child. Simple things like Lego, puzzles, cooking together, painting, gardening, water play, and playdough all help strengthen little hands!

Helpful videos:

Dough Disco: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K-CQrj10uY>

Cosmic Yoga: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NWzS2xzil4>

PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development) – Keeping Myself Safe

Our PSED focus this half term is Keeping Myself Safe. These sessions take place during circle time and encourage safe, open discussions. We will be learning about:

What is safe to go in my body- foods and stating safe around medicine

Keeping safe indoors and outdoors

Listening to my feelings

Keeping safe online

People who help to keep me safe

We will also take part in an age-appropriate session on PANTS, supported by the gentle story Pantosaurus:

P – Privates are private

A – Always remember your body belongs to you

N – No means no

T – Talk about secrets that upset you

S – Speak up, someone can help

You can find more information here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule/>

Thank you for your continued support. We have a very exciting half term ahead and can't wait to share your child's learning journey with you!

Warm wishes,

Miss Gill

