

Year 2 Newsletter - Autumn 2018.

Dear parents and carers,

This term our topic is **Dinosaurs**. Below, is a breakdown of the main themes the children will be learning about over the next term.

English

In Year 2, we are starting with some fiction. The children are going to learn *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* and then *The Dinosaur Who Cried Gigantosaurus*. They will then write their own version. We will also learn about dinosaurs and make our own non-fiction book. Later in the term we're going to learn about some very naughty dinosaurs in *What the dinosaurs did last night*. We will send more information about this later.

Spelling

We've been asked by parents in the past how they can help with their child's spellings. There is a much bigger emphasis on spelling in the Year 2 curriculum and end of tests. We are sending home word lists in a spelling book for your child to practise at home. We don't do spelling tests but will give the children time each day to practise the spellings on the lists. You may find that your child can already spell some of the words in the set. In this case, concentrate on joining the words instead. You can find more information about handwriting on our school website on the Parents' page.

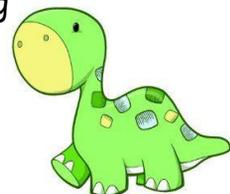
The best way to practise spelling is any variation on 'Look, cover, write, check'. This means, look at the correct spelling, cover it up and then have a go at writing it themselves. Check it's correct and if so write it again. Research shows children have to write a word correctly over 100 times for it to become 'known' so games such as 'how many times can you write it in a minute?' are really useful. Once they are getting better at a word it's useful to write it in the context of a sentence. For example, if they are practising 'because', they could write, 'I am excited because it's my birthday next week.'

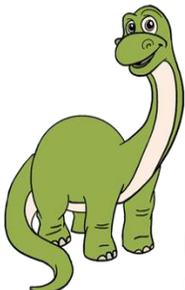
Maths

We will concentrate on understanding the place value of two digit numbers (knowing that the 3 in 32 is actually 30) and number bonds (all the different ways you can make numbers). Games involving the quick addition of two numbers such as card or dice games really help with this. We will then move onto addition and subtraction and how they relate to one another.

Science

We started our Science by sorting between 'living' and 'non-living'. There was some confusion between 'real' and 'alive' so please talk to your children about their toys that are 'real' but not 'alive'. From here we'll be learning about the main features of living things. We will learn about food chains, life cycles and how animals have adapted to different habitats. Wildlife programmes on TV and online are always fascinating to watch so enjoy watching and discussing these at home. This year Autumn Watch have a week in New England, so that will be an interesting way to compare animals in different places. It airs just before half term.





Art and Design Technology.

In Art, the children are going to learn brush skills and create watercolour paintings of dinosaurs. We will also learn about shape and make pen drawings on ammonites. In DT, we will make dinosaurs with moving parts and look at different ways of joining.



Humanities

Our Geography focus is about the physical features of our world. We are going to link it to Science and habitats by looking at the landscapes in different places. In History, the children have already started to use historical sources to find out information. We studied a portrait of Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter. The children will learn about her life and how to put events in chronological order.

Later in the term in RE, we will learn about celebrations in different world religions.

PE

Besides swimming which will be led by Mr Mortimer in both classes, the children will develop movement skills, improve ball skills (throwing, catching, kicking, rolling and trapping) and develop their game skills including team work and following simple rules.

Computing.

This term Mrs Buckley will teach computing while the other class goes swimming. We are going to learn to create algorithms (simple instructions). One of the apps we use to do this is Scratch Junior, which is a free app. You might like to download this at home and play around with it.

Music

Mrs Buckley teaches music in both classes and this term will teach the children to play untuned percussion instruments as well as learning new songs. The children will also be listening to Carnival of the Animals by Saint Saens and learn about the sounds and instruments used to describe the different animals.

School events

We are very excited about our trip to see the Dinoworld Live at the theatre. We're going to spend the morning making our own fossils and studying some collected from the Jurassic coast.

Learning heroes.

We want to encourage children to be learning heroes. We think learning heroes show determination and never give up even if they sometimes get stuck or make mistakes. They also work well as a team and look out for one another. We look forward to celebrating these skills in our celebration assembly.



Thursday 11th October is the date of our session on how to help Year 2s at home. Please come to the hall at 2:30 to hear about ways to help your child in Maths and English. If you have any other queries about Year 2, please pop in and see us. Best wishes,

Mrs Ruddick, Mr Mortimer and Mrs Buckley.

