

**Language and Literacy**

This half term we will be developing our literacy skills by using both fiction and non-fiction texts about dinosaurs. Our focus for the term will be applying the children's phonic knowledge to their reading and writing. Writing will take the form of labelling fossils found, writing fact sheets about dinosaurs and imaginative writing about the children's dinosaurs. When constructing sentences, children will be encouraged to use their knowledge of their key words to write familiar words and phonic knowledge to sound out and write unknown words. We will continue to encourage children to use full stops and start to use capital letters in their writing.

**What you can do to help your child.**

As you know reading diaries should come to school **every** day. Don't forget that to help your child progress at school it is vital to read at home each day and to practise keywords and sounds as much as possible. If possible it would be very helpful for you to take your child to the local library and get a selection of fiction and non-fiction texts about dinosaurs. Teach your children the difference between fiction and non-fiction. Look at the features of a non-fiction text, i.e the contents page, index page and photographs.

Please continue encourage your child to write for different purposes i.e writing a shopping list, letter to a relative, birthday cards etc. Concentrate on letter formation (start at the top) and sounding words out phonetically, this gives children the confidence to write independently. If your

**Mathematics**

Concepts covered will include:

- Ordering and writing numbers to 20
- Measures: comparing length, height, weight
- Finding more or less than numbers to 20
- Adding and subtracting: introducing written number sentences
- Solving real life problems
- Estimating and recording
- Looking at and learning about the numbers on the 100 square.
- Counting in 2's, 5's and 10's
- 2D / 3D shapes and describing their properties

**What you can do to help your child.**

Now the majority of children are confident to count and order numbers to 10, we will concentrate this term on using their skills to solve practical problems. Whenever possible use mathematical language with your child i.e when tidying toys away count them into the box up

**Creative Development**

Activities will include:

- Paper mache eggs
- Clay model dinosaurs
- Paper crafts to practise bending, joining and folding
- Experimenting with musical sounds
- Model making using recyclable materials
- Singing and dancing
- Role play – palaeontologist excavations

**What you can do to help your child.**

The children are wonderfully creative and regularly take home their masterpieces. Please remember a lot of time and effort has gone into these and the children's efforts should be valued and celebrated.

Continue to allow your child to experience drawing, painting and model making with a variety of different materials. We love to celebrate the children's art work at school, so if your child has made something they are proud of please bring it in during show and tell days so they can share their creations with their friends.

**General News**

Welcome back everyone to the start of the Summer term. The year is flying past so quickly and with a busy term to look forward to we have a lot to fit in.

I would like to welcome our two students to Reception this term. Kathryn Vine in Rainbow class and Sophie Matthews in Sunshine class. We wish them a successful placement with us and I am sure they will bring lots of energy and new ideas to the classes.

Our topic this term is Dinosaurs which I'm sure will be very popular with the children. If you have any relevant books, puzzles, models or fossils we could share during the term, perhaps on show and tell days it would be much appreciated

We are looking forward to seeing many of you on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April for our maths morning. There will be opportunities to watch us model mathematical activities with your children. You will be encouraged to take part in some activities too which we hope you will find beneficial in giving you a greater insight into how we teach mathematical concepts and the methods which help your children to learn successfully. You will also be given the chance to visit other classes around the school to develop an understanding of how the teaching of mathematics develops as the children progress through the school. Any questions please see your class teacher. I would also be interested in your comments after the visit.

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April – maths morning.
- Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> – Rainbow Class assembly 9.10 in the large hall. You will be asked to join the children after the assembly for prehistoric refreshments, we hope you can make this.

As usual, thank you to the regular parent helpers we currently have. If you do have an hour to spare each week and would like to come in to hear children read, your time would be much appreciated. Please speak to your class teacher.

<p>child still struggles with letter formation please focus on writing the letters in their name correctly.</p>	<p>to 5 then start saying 'and one more makes..' or ' there were 6 eggs in this box, I have used 1, how many have we got left?'  Also encourage your child to write the numerals correctly (starting from the top).</p>		<p>I have included in this half term newsletter websites that may help support the work we are doing in school. I would be interested in your comments on these and if you found these useful please let me know. I can then extend this further.  <a href="http://www.kidsdinos.com/dinosaur-games/index.php">www.kidsdinos.com/dinosaur-games/index.php</a>  <a href="http://funschool.kaboose.com/time-warp/dinosaurs/">http://funschool.kaboose.com/time-warp/dinosaurs/</a>  <a href="http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/scienceforkids/dinosaur/games.htm">http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/scienceforkids/dinosaur/games.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html">http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html</a>  <a href="http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-3-games.html">http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-3-games.html</a>  <a href="http://www.familylearning.org.uk/addition_games.html">http://www.familylearning.org.uk/addition_games.html</a>  <a href="http://www.funwithspot.com/uk">http://www.funwithspot.com/uk</a>  <a href="http://www.peterrabbit.com/index.asp">www.peterrabbit.com/index.asp</a>  <a href="http://www.coolmath-games.com/">http://www.coolmath-games.com/</a></p>
<p><b>Knowledge and Understanding</b> During the half term we will be looking at different countries. The different weathers, deserts compared to rainforests, swamps and volcanoes.  We will continue to use computer programs which develop your child's mouse control and start to use the keyboard to type their name and simple words.  Children will take part in discussions about different cultures, faiths and beliefs, we will encourage children to share their ideas and experiences with the class.  <b>What you can do to help your child.</b> Please talk to your child about the different countries you have visited and the similarities and differences between them. Identify these countries on maps and globes. With the current volcano crisis in Iceland it is an ideal opportunity to discuss these natural features with your child. If your family are originally from a different country we would be interested to hear about the similarities and differences between that country and England. If you feel comfortable to come in and talk to the class about your culture or beliefs it would be extremely interesting for the children to hear first hand, so please speak to your class teacher.</p>	<p><b>Personal and Social</b> This term we will be focusing on relationships. We will be teaching the children about being gentle with each other, treating each other with respect, sharing and understanding how words and actions can make people feel happy, sad, lonely etc. We will be teaching them these concepts through assemblies, role play and stories.  <b>What you can do to help your child.</b> Please support the children by discussing and promoting good social behaviour and also by reminding them to be kind and considerate to their friends at all times. Give your child different strategies to deal with situations i.e sharing a toy with a sibling: playing together, using a timer, finding a different toy etc.  Read stories with a strong moral, allowing time after to have a discussion with your child about the moral and relate it to your child's experiences.</p>	<p><b>Physical Development</b> This half term the children will be continuing to develop their jumping, climbing and balancing skills. We will be introducing larger apparatus now the children are confident and using the smaller apparatus safely. During our other hall time on Wednesdays we will be practising skills with small apparatus (this means balls, bean bags and hoops) and also continuing with some drama and movement sessions.  <b>What you can do to help your child.</b> Now the warmer water is finally here the children will be able to make the most of being outside. Running, skipping, hopping and jumping are all important skills which help develop children's co-ordination.  Continue to help your child develop their fine motor control by painting, drawing, sewing, threading. Using scissors, tearing paper and using construction equipment develop the muscle control in your child's hands.</p>	<p><b>Class Teachers:</b> <b>Emma Steadman</b> <b>Claire Keith</b> <b>Headteacher:</b></p>