

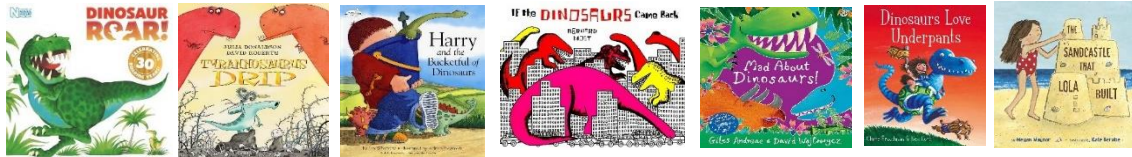
EYFS Newsletter Summer 2



Theme: Dinosaur Discoveries!

Welcome back to the final couple of months of the academic year! This term, we are launching our exciting new theme, 'Dinosaur Discoveries!', which beautifully follows on from the children's interests last term. The children will be turning into real dinosaur experts as we explore what dinosaurs were like, how they differed from each other, and what the world looked like when they lived. Alongside finding out wonderful facts and exploring prehistoric fossils, we will also be learning about the season of summer and celebrating all of our amazing achievements from this past year!

Book opportunities:



These are some of the books we will be exploring, listening to and enjoying during this topic.

Reading and Writing:

Nursery

This term, our younger children will continue with Phase 1 Phonics—exploring environmental sounds, music, and body percussion—while sharing stories and practicing asking and answering questions. Our older children will focus on their transition to Reception by learning single letter sounds, mastering oral blending and segmenting ('Fred Talk'), practicing letter formation, and learning to write their names.

Reception

This term, our focus is a final push to develop the children's confidence as independent readers and writers. Using our core text, *The Storm Whale*, the children will be retelling the story in their own words and exploring poetry. In writing, we will be supporting them to write sentences independently using capital letters and full stops, and to use written words instead of just pictures when planning their ideas. In reading, we will be focusing on building fluency to deeply support their comprehension and understanding of what they read.

Maths:

Nursery

Our maths focus this term centres on mastering the numbers 1, 2, and 3, alongside exploring spatial awareness. The children will practice subitising (instantly recognising "I see 1, 2, 3" without counting), showing and moving these quantities, and joining in with repeating patterns. We will also be developing their vocabulary as they explore positioning, shapes, and navigating simple routes.

Reception

This term, the children will be deepening their mathematical thinking by exploring numbers up to 20 and beyond. We will be focusing on calculation ("how many now?"), sharing and grouping, automatically recalling number bonds to 5, and exploring number composition to 10. We are also excitingly introducing a new tool—the Rekenrek bead frame—to help children visually subitise quantities. Alongside this, the children will develop their spatial reasoning skills through hands-on "visualise, build, and map" activities, creating 3D structures and exploring layouts.

Physical development:

Communication and language:

<p>In Physical Development, we are building strength and coordination across all ages. Our younger Nursery children are developing core strength, learning to feed themselves, and experimenting with starting and stopping on signal. Older Nursery children are moving with confidence—slithering, rolling, and climbing—while beginning to form name letters and manage their own clothing. In Reception, the focus is on negotiating space safely and mastering the tripod grip and small tools. During Games, children will work co-operatively to throw, keep score, and follow rules in team and tagging activities.</p>	<p>In communication and language, we are nurturing confident speakers and attentive listeners. Younger Nursery children are learning to track stories, shift their focus to a speaker, and build vocabulary through "small world" play. Older Nursery children are developing the "art of the turn," learning to negotiate roles in games, predict story events, and use talk to explain feelings. In Reception, children are building the focus to listen despite distractions and provide verbal summaries. We are encouraging the use of full sentences with words like "because" or "but" and providing opportunities to speak to an audience to build "performance" confidence.</p>
<p>Expressive Arts and Design:</p> <p>Our creative areas are transforming into a prehistoric world this term! The children will be using natural materials to design and create their own leaf dinosaurs, building 3D structures out of interlocking blocks, and experimenting with textures in our outdoor mud kitchen potion shop. We will also be exploring storytelling and roleplay through our narrative text trays, allowing the children to bring their favourite dinosaur characters to life while refining their artistic and collaborative skills.</p>	<p>Understanding the world:</p> <p>This term, our little palaeontologists will be diving into the natural world to investigate the mystery of dinosaurs through our big enquiry questions. Together, we will discover "What makes a dinosaur a dinosaur?" and "How do we know they existed if they lived so long ago?" by exploring fossils, bones, and natural materials. We will also investigate "How were they different from each other?" as we compare sizes and traits, all while keeping a close eye on the changing environment as we transition into the beautiful season of summer.</p>
<p>Suggested home learning activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading phonics book 3 times a week (Please sign diary)- Reception • Weekly homework in homework books- Reception • Dinosaur Sound Hunt: For younger children, go on a sound walk around your local area or garden. What "prehistoric" loud sounds or quiet nature sounds can you hear? For older children, practice hiding small toys and "Fred talking" the name of the toy for them to blend together (e.g., "Can you find the d-o-g?"). • The Storm Whale Book Chat: If you read a bedtime story together, practice asking your child what they think might happen next, or challenge them to retell their favourite part of the story in their own words. • Prehistoric Name Writing: Practice letter formation by using a stick to write names or letters in the mud, sand, or shaving foam! • Nature Patterns & Subitising: Collect leaves, stones, or sticks in the park. Practice looking at small groups (up to 3 or 5) and guessing "how many" without counting them one by one. Can you arrange them into a repeating pattern (e.g., leaf, stick, leaf, stick)? • Visualise and Map: Build a small dinosaur cave out of pillows or blocks. Help your child draw a simple "treasure map" of the living room showing where a toy dinosaur is hidden, and see if they can follow it! 	