

Reception – Spring 1

Topic - Dinosaur World

As we return to school after the Christmas holidays, the children will travel back in time to learn all about the wonderful world of dinosaurs. The children will learn about different dinosaurs and begin to understand how different the Earth was when dinosaurs roamed the planet. During the topic the children will learn about habitats and how different animals live compared to dinosaurs. We will continue our learning on building relationships and managing ourselves. This means that the children will continue to treat each other with respect, follow our school rules and play cooperatively with their friends. The children will also learn how to become more independent in areas of their learning, and how to show more resilience and perseverance.

Communication and Language (Speaking and Listening)

This term we will continue to introduce children to new vocabulary through stories, these are known as the 'Wondrous Words'. Modelling of developed talk is through story and role play. Children will be encouraged to use a range of vocabulary to talk about what they have made or done and evaluate their creation. Within areas such as the dinosaur museum (role play), the areas will be enhanced so that the children can create their own stories, silly rhymes and use different voices for different roles.

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

Our Reception children will continue to have daily taught lessons of phonics. The letter sounds are then used in the learning environment to practice letter formation and write cvc words. This term the children will begin to learn many of the key words for writing such as the, and, he, she and it. Children will continue practise the formation of letters at the same time as learning sounds. There are a number of opportunities to write for purpose and pleasure in our environment, both indoors and outdoors. When children are confident in knowing the first sounds, they begin to be able to segment words and write the sounds they hear in them. This quickly in turn enables them to attempt to write captions and phrases. As children develop a deeper understanding of sounds and are able to blend them together, they will access simple texts matched to their current skills. We aim to foster a love of reading in all children and begin this very early on by sharing daily stories in class and provide the opportunity for you to continue to share these stories at home together.

Maths (Number and Shape, Space and Measure)

Number and place value- We will introduce the number zero and then compare the numbers to 5. The children will gain a deeper understanding of the value of each number, how to compare two amounts and using key vocabulary such as 'altogether'. We develop the counting principle and apply these in a number of practical situations.

Compare Mass and Capacity - The children will begin to learn what mass and capacity are and what they look like in real life situations. The children will be able to look at how to compare the weight of objects and the amount of liquid in different sized containers. Through our continuous provision we offer the opportunity to develop vocabulary through construction using 3D shapes, exploring capacity and measure in the sensory station and use the positional language through physical movement in our outdoor provision.

Personal Development (P.S.H.E.)

Now that our children are confident in our learning environment, routine and school rules, the children can move on from the school rules as they are now embedded in everything we do. Now the children will be learning how to maintain and build on relationships independently with their peers by learning about the sensitivities of other's needs and how to show and understanding of their feelings and those of others. As mentioned previously, the focus will be on the children becoming more independent in areas of their learning, and how to show more resilience and perseverance. These are skills that will support the children to achieve in all areas of their learning and are basic life skills.

Understanding the World (Geography, History, Science and Computing)

We will be learning about different animals and the habitats they live in. The children will talk about the similarities and differences between the different types of dinosaurs and explore how they lived. The children will look at how the dinosaurs look different and look at what they eat. We familiarise ourselves with our school grounds, making simple maps of the outdoor areas and look at features of the environment for purpose and use. We explore further afield from exploring a wealth of non-fiction texts and stories.

As part of understanding the world around us, technology is important both inside and outside of the classroom and from an early age we ensure that children understand the need to use the internet safely. We will also explore algorithms, decomposition, debugging, logic, patterns and abstraction through our 'Busy Bodies' Barefoot Computing module.

Expressive Arts (Art and Music)

We love to create and design in Early Years and now is the time to explore a range of materials to achieve different effects, including shading, blending, smudging and making marks. This half term the children will be learning how to print using different materials and creating patterns using their printing.

Music is used throughout our Early Year's environment to encourage the children to explore different sounds of instruments and express emotions using them. The children will continue to learn many nursery rhymes and songs, many of which will support their counting in Mathematics. In our outside area the children can investigate the different sounds of the instruments and create their own songs.

Physical Development (P.E.)

Our focus for this term is dance. Pupils will continue to develop their physical, social, emotional and thinking skills, alongside basic dance skills. They begin to develop an awareness of space and how to use it safely. They perform basic skills and practise their co-ordination. They copy, create, remember and repeat short dance sequences. They begin to understand using different parts of the body at the same time and following the beat of the music.

Religious Education (R.E.)

The focus of this half term is on the importance of special places. We will learn about creating a special area in our classroom and then look at if we have any special places at home, such as photographs on the wall of family members. We will then discuss that some people have special places that they visit to worship, such as a synagogue, church or mosque.