

## Reception Newsletter Summer 2

Welcome back to Summer 2! We hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break.

### Dinosaurs

Our topic for Summer 2 is Dinosaurs! We will be reading all about dinosaurs, learning lots of new facts and exploring some of the scientists who researched dinosaurs and fossils.

Please see below for ideas on how you can explore this topic with your child at home.

#### Key words

- Extinct
- Fossil
- Jungle
- Desert
- Mountains
- Volcanoes
- Ocean
- Bones
- Scales
- Plates
- Long, long ago
- before

#### Books to read at home

- Harry and the Dinosaur Series
- Welcome to Dinosaur School
- Dinosaur Zoo

There are many Dinosaur Fact Books such available, such as:

- My Encyclopaedia of very Important Dinosaurs
- Little Kids First Book of Dinosaur (National Geographic Kids)
- Questions and Answers about Dinosaurs
- A First Book of Dinosaurs

#### Ideas to try at home

- Can your child make sock puppet dinosaurs?
- Can you make dinosaurs from playdough and pasta?
- Especially fun on warmer days, freeze a toy dinosaur inside a balloon. Can the children free the dinosaur?
- Trip to the Natural History Museum to see the Dinosaur Gallery
- Dinosaur Evolution Exhibition (ends November 2024) at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill.



## Literacy

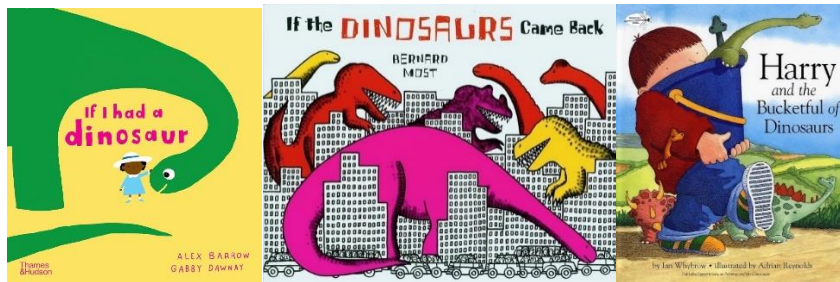
In literacy we will be reading *If I had a Dinosaur*, *If the Dinosaurs Came Back*, *Harry and the Dinosaurs* and various non-fiction texts about dinosaurs.

In this final term, we are working on using our sounds in our writing, including phase 3 and 4. We are also making sure we are using our 'tricky word' mats to help us with the correct spellings, remember to use capital letters at the beginning of sentences and for names, and using finger spaces between words and full stops at the end of the sentence.

The children have also been working hard with their correct letter formations. This is important as it makes writing quickly a lot easier as they begin to write larger amounts. If you would like a sheet with the letter formation ditties that we use at school, please ask your child's teacher.

Here are some ideas of writing activities you can do at home:

- Ask your child to help write the shopping list. They can use the phonics that they know to spell most words phonetically.
- Matching lower case and capital letters



## Maths

This half-term in Maths we will be continuing to practise and consolidate our skills in subitising, counting, composition and comparing amounts. We are also continuing to consolidate number facts, such as the number bonds to all numbers within 10. We will also be solving more number problems including doubling and sharing and recapping the concept of odd and even.

Here are some ideas to support your child at home:

- Play Doubles-The children take turns to roll 2 dice. They score a point each time they roll a double. The first to reach 3 points wins the game.
- Teddy Bears Picnic- Using teddy bears, plates and small quantities of 'loose parts representing food items e.g. buttons, pencils, etc. ask your child to share out the loose parts fairly so that each teddy gets the same. Are there any items left over? What will happen if another teddy joins the picnic?



## Phonics

We are all practising phase 4 sounds. Phase 4 sounds are consonant clusters such as "fr" in "frog" and "pt" in "kept". We do not teach these as new sounds and we encourage children to continue saying each sound individually (eg f-r-o-g). Please keep practising your phase 3 sounds at home, and all the 'tricky words' we have learnt so far. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like further help and resources supporting phonics at home.

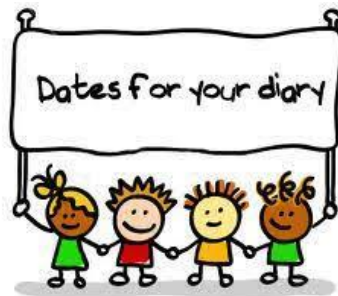
We cannot stress enough the importance of having your child read to you daily. Children should be reading their books a minimum of 3 times to ensure they are understanding the sentences they are reading and to become a more fluent reader. It is noticeable when children are reading regularly at home.

## Physical Development

In PE, we have been practising throwing and catching balls and bean bags. Please practise this with your child at home as these skills are important to the development of both their fine and gross motor skills. Strength in their fine motor skills has a link with their ability to hold a pencil for longer periods of time as well as making handwriting a lot easier.

Another way of developing these skills at home include rolling and playing with playdough, using scissors and threading (beads/pasta onto string or pipe cleaners).

It is really easy to make your own playdough at home using flour, salt and water - there are lots of recipes online.



Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June- Library Trip (Rainbow Class)

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Library (Moonbeam Class)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July - Library (Sunshine Class)

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July - Crystal Palace Park and Farm (Sunshine Class + half of Moonbeam Class - see letter)

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July - Crystal Palace Park and Farm (Rainbow Class + half of Moonbeam Class - see letter)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Early Years sports day

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July - Carnival