

## Early Years Topic Letter –Spring 2

Our topic this half term is - From Dinosaurs to me!



Welcome back, I hope you have all had a well rested half term break. As always I am looking forward to hearing about what everyone has been up to.

### Gentle reminders:

Drop off for all children is 8.45am (prompt please as this allows our day to run smoothly.) If you are late and the gate into Early Years is locked, please go in via the main office, pick up is 3.15pm or 12 noon if your child goes home after lunch.

Please ensure your child has a change of clothing in school in case we need them. If your child is in nappies, please provide nappies/pull ups, wipes and nappy bags. Children in Early Years should only bring a book bag reading folder to school as our cloakroom and storage space is very small! I am happy for changes of clothes to be left on the children's pegs either in a carrier bag or a drawstring style bag as these do not take up too much space.

Please email any end of day changes to Mrs Kennedy in the office – I cannot always guarantee messages on tapestry will be seen straight away.

Please always remember a waterproof coat, gloves and a hat, we go out in all weathers! Water bottles are also essential please. Please make sure every item of clothing and water bottle is clearly marked with your child's name. This makes it easier for us to make sure items are not lost and are reunited with their owner quickly, a lot of jumpers get mixed up and lost on a daily basis as we are still learning to be responsible for our own belongings.

As mentioned in a previous message on Tapestry PE will now be on a Wednesday for this half term, as we are lucky to be having some rugby coaching on this day. Forest school/outdoor learning will continue to be on a Friday, so please can your child come to school dressed in their **PE kit on Wednesdays and Fridays**. If there are ever any changes to this, I will notify you on tapestry.

Please remember to log onto your child's tapestry account regularly, this will help you to see what your child's next steps are and will help you to support your child's learning. It is the way I communicate the most with you regarding any changes. Further to this, it is a lovely way to see what we have been up to and talk about school with your children. Don't forget to upload achievements and experiences at home too! If anyone is having any problems accessing tapestry, please just let me know.

As ever if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, I am always available at drop off or pick up times.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We will reinforce positive behaviour at all times in EYFS. Supporting the children to develop their personal, social and emotional development is at the core of what we do in every way.

This half term we will place particular emphasis on:

What makes a good friend?

Healthy me

Random acts of Kindness

Looking after pets

Looking After our Planet

Give children strategies for staying calm in the face of frustration. Talk them through why we take turns, wait politely, tidy up after ourselves and so on

## Physical Development



This half term we will be continuing to develop our independence! We will be working on putting our own shoes or wellies on, going to the toilet, identifying when we need our nappy changed, going on the potty or toilet, putting our coat on, peeling our fruit and putting our straw in our milk! You can help at home by supporting your child to get dressed by themselves and have a go at putting their coat and shoes on before you help them. You can also support them to wash their hands.

We will also be working hard to develop our fine motor and gross motor skills. We will be doing this through our dough disco and 'squiggle while you wiggle' sessions as well as daily name writing.

We will promote gross motor activities like climbing, jumping, running, throwing and catching through physical activities and when using our climbing frame and the cars and bikes.

We will be taking part in lots of fine motor activities which will help to develop the strength in our fingers, and support us to hold a pencil effectively. These will include things like pinching, threading, using pegs, twisting, brushing, stacking, dough disco and using tweezers.

We will be developing our pencil control and Reception will be focussing on accurate letter formation and trying to sit our letters on the line. In Nursery, if we are ready we will also be working hard to write our names.

In our P.E sessions the focus will be Rugby.

## RE



This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions and our main focus this term is Christianity and why is Easter special to Christians?

## Communication and Language



We develop the children's listening and attention, understanding and speaking skills all the time and often based on your child's next steps as the children often have specific areas to work on.

This half term we will be focusing on:

Taking turns to talk during circle and group times

Taking each others ideas on board and work together



### Reception Literacy

This half term in Reception we will continue to consolidate RWInc set 1 and 2 sounds, through short and snappy 'speed sounds' sessions each morning, designed to teach the children to recognise and pronounce the pure sounds, before reading them in words such as 'chick, dirt, snow, bush' please support us and continue to practise sounds at home daily, particularly the ones you find your child is finding tricky, alongside the texts that are also sent home that match your child's RWInc session in school. We recommend sharing these at **least three times** to consolidate previous learning and build confidence and reading with expression as well as building comprehension skills. Little and often is key and really does make a BIG difference. If you can pop a little note in your child's reading record with what you have done and how they have got on, this is a good way to communicate between home and school as well as tapestry.

We will also begin to introduce new red words this half term such as 'I, the'. These words are words that cannot be sounded out and they just need to be learnt by sight.

We will continue to send a 'reading for pleasure' book home each week – please keep this at home and return to school on a **Thursday** – when we will change them. These books along with books you have at home are a great way to share how stories are structured so that your child becomes used to and can possibly join in with repeated refrains, please take the opportunity for your child to listen to you reading the story, create their own retelling of the story and talk about the characters and settings and the characters feelings. Reception children will also have the opportunity to go to our new school library once a fortnight on a Tuesday and choose a book of their choice to bring home. Our first visit this half term is on **Tuesday 7th March**, please ensure books from last half term are in school for this day, so that we can exchange for a new one.

We will be developing our writing skills this half term so that children can label pictures and write for various purposes writing in sentences. It is very important as children pick up the sounds in Read, Write, Inc that they practise forming them correctly, starting in the correct place. We will write such things as -

Dinosaur facts  
Labelling Dinosaurs and fossils  
Recounts of things we have done  
retelling of stories we have read  
Labelling and writing about models and creations we have made

*Key vocabulary: fiction, non-fiction, speech bubble, poster, facts, label.*

### Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will work on writing our names and developing our mark making skills.

This half term we will be placing our emphasis on creating confident mark maker's, allowing the children to explore the different marks they make using a variety of tools including chalk, pens, pencils, crayons, water and in sensory trays. We will take part in 'Squiggle While you Wiggle' sessions to help us to develop our early writing skills in an energetic and fun way.

We will also be promoting drawing and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and the marks they have made.

We will take part in short daily phase one phonics sessions which will help us to develop our sound discrimination

and listening skills. This half term we will be focussing on voice sounds and beginning to hear words when orally blended e.g. teachers says p-e-n - child says 'pen'

*Key vocabulary: fiction, non-fiction, rhyme, sound, first and last sounds, blending.*



### Nursery Maths

Maths happens all day in Early Years, during the register, at snack time and while the children play. Before the day has even started, we have counted and added up how many children we have at school and recorded this using Numicon and on tens frames. This half term we will focus on:

Using positional language

Continue to develop language related to time

Recognising and naming 2D shapes

Recognising and naming numerals in the environment, matching quantities to numerals.

Secure positional language

*Key vocabulary: How many? Numicon, number, match, same, triangle, square, circle, rectangle, 2D shape, first, next, later, today, tomorrow, yesterday, on, under, next to, behind, in front of, beside.*

### Reception Maths

Maths happens all day in Early Years. Each morning at register time, we will count how many children we have, add them up and record this using Numicon and number sentences before our day has even started! Maths is covered in all areas of the provision, but we also take part in a short, directed Maths activity each day. The children can then apply the skills they have used in the provision.

This half term we will focus on:

Numbers 9,10

Number bonds to 10 using part whole and tens frames

*Key vocabulary: Compare, order, number, quantity, bigger, smaller, add, plus, combine, total, equals, altogether, subtract, take away, minus, number bonds, tens, ones, tens frame, part whole model, part, whole.*

### Expressive, Art and Design



This term the children will have the opportunity to:

Make different textures; make patterns using different colours

Collage animals / Making houses.

Pastel drawings, printing, patterns on Easter eggs, Mother's Day crafts Easter crafts.

Design our own Dinosaurs!

Salt dough fossils.

*Key vocabulary: collage, pastel, tools, pastels, cut, stick, materials, join, attach, paint, sketch, draw.*

### Understanding the World



This term we will be:

Commenting on the weather, culture, clothing, housing.

Looking at the change in living things – changes in the leaves, weather, seasons and the difference between now and the past.

Learning to understand where dinosaurs are now and begin to understand that they were alive a very long time ago.

Learning about what a palaeontologist is and how they explore really old artefacts. We will talk about Mary Anning as the first female to find a fossil.

*Key vocabulary: animals, habitats, season, changes, now, then, past, palaeontologist, fossils, artefacts, facts.*

