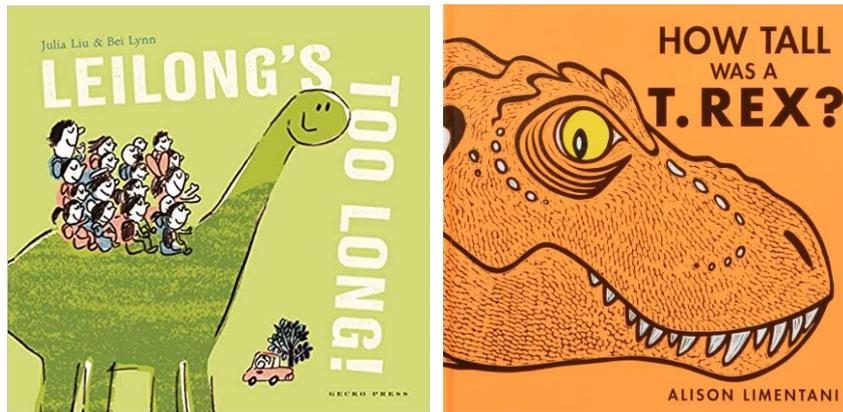


Early Years Topic Letter -Spring 2 2025

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, pick up is 3.15pm or 11.45am 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 daily as we are still learning to be responsible for our own belongings.

Forest school will continue to be on a Monday and PE on a Thursday, so please can your child come to school dressed in their **PE kit on Mondays and Thursdays**. 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.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 6th March - Early Years and Class 1 World Book Day trip to Lilidorei - please see separate letter sent last half term.

Monday 17th March - PTA meeting at 3.30pm in school - everybody welcome!

Friday 21st March - Early Years and Class 1 - first aid training session in school.

Monday 31st March - Mother's Day special event hosted by Early Years 2-3pm.

Friday 4th April - Non-uniform day/Easter bingo 5pm.

Monday/Tuesday 7th and 8th April - parent consultation meetings - Mrs Kennedy will send out booking arrangements nearer to the time.

Friday 11th - Easter service at Church.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We always reinforce positive behaviour in EYFS.

We will be 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

Looking after pets

Looking After our Planet

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

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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 dance.

Communication and Language



This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions and our main focus this term will be looking at Multi faith comparative units by focusing on what times and stories are special and why? We will also look at festivals and celebrations.



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 other's 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.

We will be continuing to develop 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.



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.

Nursery Maths

This half term we will focus on:

Using positional language

Reception Maths

This half term we will focus on:

Numbers 9,10

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.

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.
Make collages of animals /houses.
Using pastels to draw, printing with paint, making patterns on Easter eggs.
Make Mother's Day and Easter crafts.
Design our own Dinosaurs!
Make 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 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.