



## Reception Class Newsletter January 2019

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Mrs. Davis and I would like to thank you for the lovely cards and presents and hope that you all had a good Christmas. The children had a great first term in Reception and we are looking forward to this term and some exciting activities. The children are developing their independent skills and it is fantastic to see how much they have progressed since September. The children come into school independently and are able to put their bags and bottles away themselves. We are now encouraging them to fasten up their own coats, so if you could help your child to practice this at home, that would be a big help.

### **Topic**

Our topic this term is 'Dinosaur Roar' followed by 'Rumble in the Jungle'. We will be investigating different dinosaurs, their features and habitats. We are all very excited to see if a dinosaur might hatch out of our dinosaur egg that we are looking after! We will be palaeontologists and archaeologists, finding out about and making our own fossils and excavating bones in our dinosaur dig. We will be using the Natural History Museum website to help us with our research as well as a range of non-fiction texts. After half term we will be using the music 'Carnival of the Animals' by Saint-Saens as a starting point to explore animals from different countries and habitats, including the African plains and the ocean.

### **Communication, Language and Literacy**

The children have done really well with their phonics and are now working on using their sounds to blend and segment words both orally and when reading and writing. We are starting children on our reading scheme as and when they are ready, following our regular assessment and tracking of their phonic skills. Please don't be concerned if your child has not brought home a reading scheme book yet, they are still able to practice and develop the skills needed through sharing a range of storybooks at home with you. Reading a range of quality books to your child and encouraging them to re-tell stories, discuss characters and predict events are really important areas that you can support your child with, as well as helping them identify letters, rhyming words and familiar words.

This term we will be reading a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to help us research dinosaurs. We will be looking at and describing characters in stories and creating our own characters. We will be making fact files about dinosaurs and creating our own dinosaur names. We will be using stories such as 'The Egg', 'Bumpus Jumpus Dinosaurumpus' and 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs' to inspire the children's writing and story-telling.

### **Mathematical Development**

This term we will be focusing on numbers to 20, counting, estimating, ordering numbers, recognising numerals and counting on and back from a given number. We will be having lots of fun solving practical problems using addition and subtraction, partitioning sets of objects and reading simple addition and subtraction sums. We will be looking at 2D shapes, weighing, measuring and comparing, recognising and creating patterns, recognising coins of different values and measuring short periods of time in simple ways.

### **P.E**

The Reception class will be taking part in P.E sessions every Monday and Wednesday this term. We encourage the children to leave their P.E bags in school to ensure that they have them on P.E days. For safety reasons, if your child wears earrings, please remove them on P.E days. Please ensure that all your child's kit and school uniform is clearly named so that we are able to identify and return any lost items. We do have a couple of unnamed items in the classroom from last term, so if you are missing any thing please let us know.

### **Water Bottles**

Please can I remind you that we encourage the children to bring a water bottle every day. It is very important that the children have the opportunity to drink throughout the day as this benefits their development and learning. We do ask that parents put water in the bottles, not juice, as water is healthier for the children and when spillages occur we don't have such a sticky mess!

### **Home Links**

Thank you for the 'Wow' cards we have received already. The children have enjoyed sharing these with their class and adding them to our 'Wow' display. If you need anymore 'Wow' cards, they are available from the 'Wow' display by the coat pegs.

Please continue using the home/school diary to let us know if someone different is collecting your child, if they have some news to share or if you have a concern. However if you need to talk to me in person, then you are most welcome to come and see me before or after school.

### **Reminder**

I would like to remind parents that the children should not be bringing toys or other items to school. If your child would like to bring something in for 'show and tell' we would love to see books/objects/pictures or pieces of writing linked to our topic or certificates/medals from their out of school activities. 'Show and tell' is on a Friday morning and this is an ideal time for children to share any Wow cards too.

Mrs. Daniel

January 2019