

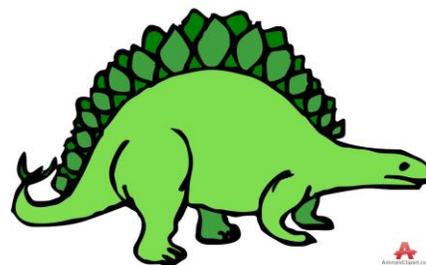
Early Years Spring 2



Dinosaurs

Wow! We are half way through the year already! Time really does fly by when you're having fun. We had such fun with our Superheroes topic – check out the school website if you haven't already to see what we got up to. Ask your child to talk you through all the exciting activities. We have another busy half term ahead of us with Shrove Tuesday, World Book Day, Sharing Week, Science Week and much, much more!

Our main topic this half term will be Dinosaurs. We will read a range of dinosaur stories, such as 'Harry and his Bucket Full of Dinosaurs', 'Tyrannosaurus Drip' and 'Bumpus Jumpus Dinosaurumpus', as well as looking at non-fiction dinosaur reference books. We will become paleontologists, digging for fossils and exploring different fossils and rocks.



The children will continue to take part in PE sessions on a Wednesday. Nursery children will just be removing socks, shoes and jumpers for the lesson however Reception children will need their PE kits as we will definitely be getting dressed for P.E. Please make sure that all PE kits and school uniform is labeled with your child's name to save any confusion on those days as school shoes and jumpers all look the same! You may find that children have clothes on inside out – don't worry, this is a good thing as it demonstrates that they are showing independence.



REMINDER In Early Years we play outside every day and in all weathers, even snow! Please send your child to school with a suitable coat, hat and gloves (named) especially with the cold weather.

Dates for your diary:

2nd March – World Book Day

3rd March – Reception trip to the library

7th March – Chris Bostock the storyteller working with Reception

7th March – Parents' Evening for Nursery 1, Class 1 and Class 2

8th March - Parents' Evening for Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Class 1 and Class 2

9th March - Parents' Evening for Nursery 2

w/b 13th March – Sharing Week

w/b 13th March – Science Week

7th April – end of term

Our Wish Tree

Vegetable oil

Baking parchment

Flour

Chocolate – for
crispie cakes!

Pasta shapes for
threading and counting

Salt

Caster sugar

Food colouring –
green, yellow and
blue

Shaving foam

cornflakes

Hay for the
guinea pigs

Food for the guinea
pigs – carrots,
lettuce, cabbage.

Coloured wool



Any donations of the above items to Early Years would be greatly appreciated.

Please check the website for copies of letters and further dates for your diary and information.

www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @ArchibaldFirst

Prime Area: Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In both Nursery and Reception, we will continue to use circle times to provide the children with opportunities to talk about themselves, their families and things that are of importance to them; developing the children's confidence and participation within groups. We will also use these sessions to encourage the children to talk about emotions and how we deal with different emotions. Also we will help the children to recognise when their actions hurt others.

We will be teaching the children to use and care for resources, then trusting them to do so independently.

In Reception, we have been continuing to work hard on earning team points for our brilliant effort, attitude and behavior. We have enjoyed our Golden Time reward playtime on Fridays and some of of have had a VIP day to celebrate our team getting the most points.

We love sharing the children's WOW stars and Little star vouchers. Please continue to send in these achievements.

Prime Area: Communication and Language Development

Through both our day to day routines and specific teaching, children will continue to develop the skills needed to become effective communicators; focusing on turn-taking in group situations and conversations. Carpet sessions will help develop listening skills and children will be encouraged to express their opinions and speak in front of both small and large groups. We will continue to spend time encouraging the children to talk about their activities at home and school.

We will provide opportunities for children to talk about their activities at home and school, helping them to reflect upon and explain events.

Listening, attention and understanding skills will be addressed in story times and through the use of non-fiction dinosaur texts. Rhythm, rhyme and repetition will be explored through some of these texts and in our literacy work.

Prime Area: Physical Development

The children are thoroughly enjoying their PE sessions once a week in the hall. The Nursery children are trying hard to be independent when removing their shoes, socks and jumpers – well done! The Reception children are doing really well at getting fully changed for PE, too. We are losing fewer items along the way but please make sure that all items of clothing and shoes are named. We have completed a lot of work on basic skills and balancing so, this half term, we will start to work on the large apparatus, teaching the children to use it carefully and safely.

The Reception children are continuing their regular handwriting sessions and everyone's pencil control is really developing. Please continue to practice at home.

Nursery children are really enjoying the dough disco sessions and are developing their finger and thumb control massively. They are trying really hard to write their first names. Please continue to provide opportunities to practice this at home.

Specific Area: Expressive Art and Design

This is always a popular area of learning in Early Years and over the last term and a half, the children have really developed in their ideas of model building and painting.

Children will have daily opportunities to play with playdough, paint and to make their own models in the Blue zone (any recycling will be greatly appreciated!). They will have access to our different role play areas to help develop their imagination and build on their speaking and confidence. This half term, our role play areas will include a dinosaur area, museum shop and a house.

The children will have singing sessions and continue to access musical instruments.

Specific Area: Mathematics

We will continue to teach mathematics through a range of practical and fun activities, both indoors and outdoors, including counting, number rhymes, number hunts and reading and recognising numbers.

Reception children will develop their understanding and use of numbers, finding one more or one fewer than a given number and developing addition and subtraction skills. We are also beginning to look at doubling and halving groups of objects. Reception children are also learning to record their calculations using numbers and symbols.

The children will also compare and order objects according to length, height and weight. We will look at 2D and 3D shapes in the environment. We will also describe these shapes according to their properties.

Specific Area: Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This half term, we will be finding out all about dinosaurs; where and when they lived, what they ate and the many different types of dinosaurs there were. During our Science Week, we will conduct a range of experiments, predicting and observing. Sharing Week will give the children the opportunity to find out about different professions.

Reception will continue to use the ICT suite on a regular basis, developing computer and mouse skills. All children will also have access to a range of technology within the Unit, such as the iPads, beebots, smartboards and the class computers.

Both Reception and Nursery will continue their weekly Spanish. We are getting very good at naming colours, counting and singing Spanish songs!

Specific Area: Literacy

Reading is an integral part of the Early Years curriculum and we will continue to explore a range of books in both small and larger groups. Our Dinosaur topic also enables us to use non-fiction books to find out facts about dinosaurs. We will also look at dinosaur stories, basing much of our work on dinosaur stories such as Harry and his Dinosaurs, Dinosaur Roar and Dinosaur Stomp. Children will discuss characters in books and make predictions about what might happen next.

Reception children will continue their daily phonics sessions. Keep up the work with your child using their orange sound books as this is a vital part of home school learning to help support your child's learning at home.

Reception children continue to receive their reading books, which are changed weekly. Please read as often as possible, talking about the books and remember to sign the reading diary letting us know how your child got on. Your feedback is very insightful and important to us.

Nursery will continue to get their book bags every other week. We hope you enjoy sharing these books with your children.