



# DINOSAURS

**SPRING TERM 2: 2023**

**Squirrel Class**





# DINOSAURS

This half term our topic is 'Dinosaurs'. We will be learning all about these marvellous pre-historic creatures that once roamed our planet and will be able to identify some of the different kinds of dinosaurs, where they came from and what they liked to eat, talking about herbivores and carnivores.

The children will have the opportunity to explore dinosaur eggs and fossils during their sensory and exploration play in order to learn more about these fascinating creatures. They will be able to watch in amazement as the dinosaur eggs hatch and go on a jungle hunt down in the sensory garden to see if they can spot any of the dinosaurs that we have been learning about.

Our topic will link in to both the prime and specific areas of learning as well as each child's PDP goals.

# PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The children will continue to work on developing their peer to peer friendships within the class and will be encouraged to take part in a number of turn taking games such as 'Dinosaur Snap' and 'Three in a Row'.



We will also continue to look at emotions, particularly 'happy' and 'sad' and will use our dinosaur masks to figure out how each of our dinosaurs is feeling. The children will have a daily check in using

zones of regulation in order to help them identify their feelings.



## COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Bucket time will be dinosaur themed this half term and we are very excited about it. The children will learn some key vocabulary and corresponding Makaton signs for words such as 'big', 'stomp' and 'dig' whilst we discover fossils, swamps and a whole variety of plants, stones and sand whilst we explore the lands of the dinosaurs through some very engaging stage 2 and 3 activities.

The children will be encouraged throughout their play and learning to using symbols and words to show their understanding.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

This half term we have Move Momentum joining us for some dinosaur themed wheelchair friendly dance fun. The children will have the opportunity to combine the dinosaurs with their movement. For instance they might flap their arms like a Pterodactyls wings or stomp like a T-Rex.

For the children's fine motor development there will be lots of opportunities for dough play. Using salt dough and dinosaur figures they will have the chance to create fossils and using PlayDoh and dry pasta they will be encouraged to create their own dinosaurs complete with spikes and horns.

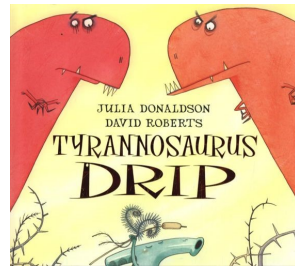


# SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING

## LITERACY

### Reading:

Our key texts this half term are 'Tyrannosaurus Drip' and 'Roo the Roaring Dinosaur'. We will be exploring these stories in greater depth looking at the characters and the places that they live. We will also be exploring a number of Dinosaur Poems.



The children will continue to learn all about the letters in the alphabet (starting with lowercase letters). This will be accessed through various play opportunities.

### Phonics:

We will be continuing to work on Phase 1 phonics looking at environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion and the introduction of rhythm and rhyme. The children learning Phase 2 phonics will recap all of the SATPIN sounds.

### Mark Making & Writing:

The children will be developing their fine motor skills with our daily 'Dough Disco' sessions and will have plenty of opportunities for mark making through sensory play. Some children will be ready to develop their pre-writing skills and this will be some with a range of tracing activities and the opportunity to explore different writing materials such as pen, paintbrush and crayons.

## MATHS

### Numbers 1-5:

We will continue to learn all about the numbers 1-5 through a variety of play based activities and number songs that are incorporated into our daily routine. We will use our Dinosaur provision as opportunities to count dinosaurs, eggs and footprints.

### Shape & Spatial Awareness

We will also be comparing big and small dinosaurs and looking to arrange them in the order of their size. The children will be able to use symbols and switches and eye pointing to communicate their knowledge and understanding.



We will also continue to look at shape and will be exploring how shapes fit into similar shaped holes by using resources such as shape sorters and inset puzzles. The children, where possible, will be encouraged to do these independently and progress in difficulty when they master a particular puzzle or activity.

### Pattern:

This half term the children will continue to explore the concept of 'patterns' and will be encouraged to continue and create dinosaur patterns using our resources within the provision as well as body percussion patterns such as 'stomp, stomp, roar'.

# SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

The children will be learning all about dinosaurs. They will have the opportunity to investigate the different kinds of dinosaurs and where they come from looking at their habitats and the countries that they originate from, exploring some of the volcanoes and what it might look like when they erupt. They will investigate the dinosaurs diet and learn about herbivores and carnivores and how the dinosaurs start life.

The children will go on a dinosaur hunt through the sensory garden and see what they can spot. They might find some dinosaur eggs which we will bring back into class to try and hatch. The children will be able to watch in amazement as the eggs crack, revealing a baby dinosaur to add to their collection of dinosaurs.



## EXPRESSIVE ART & DESIGN

The children will be learning some new dinosaur songs and using instruments to replicate the sounds of the dinosaurs walking through the jungles and forests.

They will also be making plenty of dinosaur art from dinosaur skeletons using cotton buds and black paper to making dinosaur handprints using a range of printing techniques using the dinosaurs that we have in class but also some more obscure objects that we might find that could make similar prints.



The children will have lots of sensory play opportunities throughout this topic encouraging them to engage in small world play where possible. Our Identiplay sessions will be dinosaur themed for the children who need further play support.

## **OUTDOOR LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Our Dinosaur topic gives us plenty of opportunity for outside learning. We will be going on a dinosaur hunt in the sensory garden and looking at the habitats that the dinosaurs lived in. We will be looking out for dinosaurs hiding behind the trees and any eggs that they may have left behind.

We will use natural resources to build some nests for our eggs and investigate some dinosaur swamps out in our garden.

We will also be continuing to work through our Activity Passports which were introduced to the school last half term and encourages the children to select activities to complete that will have a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Last day of School (1.30pm Finish)

Friday 31st March

Easter Break

Monday 3rd April —Friday 14th April

Monday 17th April: Return to school

## **MONSTER PHONICS**

<https://monsterphonics.com/>

## **ANDY'S DINOSAUR ADVENTURE GAME**

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games/  
andys-dinosaur-adventures-game](https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games/andys-dinosaur-adventures-game)