

Year 2 Lent 2 Newsletter

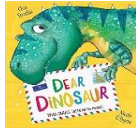
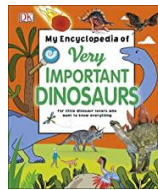
Welcome back! I hope you all had lovely and restful week off – we are starting a topic I am very excited about teaching this half term, **DINOSAURS!**

English

This half term as writers, we will be focusing on:

My encyclopaedia of very important dinosaurs -

We will use this encyclopaedia as a base to look at information about dinosaurs to create our own information booklets. It has every dinosaur that has ever lived in – there is many!



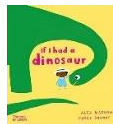
Dear Dinosaur -

When Max visits the Big Museum, he's disappointed that he has to leave before he can ask all his questions about dinosaurs. However, Dinosaur Dora, the helpful museum curator, suggests that he writes the T-Rex a letter.



How to look after your dinosaur -

We will be writing instructions about how to catch a Naughty dinosaur and look after a dinosaur.



If I had a dinosaur -

A little girl dreams of having her very own pet. But what kind of animal would make the best companion? A mouse is too small; a cat is too ordinary; and a fish is too... wet! As she plays with her toy dinosaur, inspiration strikes. What about a real, live dinosaur?

We are going to be publishing the following genres of text:

Non-Chronological Reports, Letters, Instructions and Poetry.

Maths

This half term, as mathematicians, we are going to be focusing on the following:

Multiplication and Division

We will be finishing this unit by looking at our 5s and 10s times tables and how these facts can help us when dividing. We will continue using our methods of grouping, sharing and arrays to help us.

It will be beneficial for the children to continue to practise their 2s, 5s and 10s at home to ensure their knowledge of these times tables is secure. All pupils can practise using Times Tables Rock Stars.

Length and Height We will firstly be using rulers to measure in centimetres and metres. We will then build upon our Year 1 knowledge of ordering and comparing heights and lengths, continuing to use mathematical language. We will draw on our knowledge of the four operations from earlier in the year and apply it to our understanding of lengths and heights. We will solve both one-step and two-step problems relating to lengths and heights. We will use concrete and pictorial representations to support them in understanding the questions, and in calculating efficiently.

Mass, Capacity and Temperature

We will begin by revisiting Year 1 learning of comparing mass. We will then learn to measure in grams and kilograms by using scales. We will use our knowledge of the 4 operations to problem solve. These skills will then be used for volume and capacity. Finally we will begin to read the temperature on the thermometer and use mathematical language to describe temperature.

Don't forget, to log into Sumdog to practice all the maths skills your children will need. If you have any questions about how to get onto TTRS, just ask! Your child's login will be stuck in the front of their home school diary.

RE

Our focus for RE this half term will be Thanksgiving and Opportunities.

We have two learning questions to answer this half term, 'Why should we be grateful people?' and 'How does each day offer opportunities for good?'. Both questions allow us to connect deeper with our Catholic Faith and encourage us to think deeper about how we can make connections to Jesus' life.



How do we know dinosaurs existed?

For our topic learning this half term, we are going to become historians and travel back further in time than any other year group in school! We are going right back to the dinosaur times and exploring many questions that will develop and encourage the children to connect with a love of History.

In week one, as historians, we will be solving the questions 'Is there a dinosaur in my classroom?'. In this, we will look at fossils, dinosaur names, and the equipment palaeontologists use to discover the remains of dinosaurs.

In week two, as historians, we will research what different dinosaurs looked like and the main differences between them.

In week three, as historians, we will be focusing who Mary Anning was and how we know that all these dinosaurs existed!

In week four, as historians, we will explore where dinosaurs lived and locate these places on a modern-day map.

In week five, as historians, we will create timelines to show when dinosaurs existed.

In week six, as historians, we will research what dinosaur ate and then create dinosaur pool! These will allow us to link this topic very nicely with our Science Learning this half term.

All our history learning this half term links with the following National Curriculum strands:

- the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods

- significant historical events, people and places

It also links very nicely with the Year 3 study of rocks and fossils. We will use our English book focuses alongside these books this half term:



Guided Reading

For our Guided Reading this half term, we are going to be developing our fluency and expression when reading aloud. As we become readers, we will answer questions based around retrieval and inference. We use the DERIC approach to Guided Reading (Decode, Explain, Retrieval, Interpret and Choice). To build these skills this half term, we will be starting with How to Look After Your Dinosaur and Doctorsaurus.



Science

Our Enquiry Question for this half term is 'Was it ever alive?'

This enquiry questions lends itself nicely to our Living Things and Their Habitats unit of learning. During this, we will be learning all about living things and their habitats. We will be focusing on whether or not things are alive, once lived or never lived. We will be building our scientific vocabulary by describe different habitats (including micro habitats) and also by developing our understanding of Food Chains.

We do lots of visual learning through this unit, and we will be using two books to help with our habitat learning, The Green Ship and One Day On Our Blue Planet. These do books showcase habitats and how different things (including animals) can thrive in different environments.



How can you help?

I really enjoyed my first half term and getting to know all of the children. Everyone has been working super hard and we have all settled into our new routines. Homework is put onto SeeSaw and paper copies are sent home. Please ensure that SeeSaw is checked and that you regularly log on to Sumdog and TTRS to practice skills. I will be sending some more reading and spelling packs over the coming weeks and practice with common high frequency spellings and comprehension skills.

Thank you for your continued support and as always, please get in touch if you have any questions or worries.

Mrs Greenwood-Knapper & Miss Walker