



Orchard Class

Term 3

This term's focus topic is: "Dinosaurs"

Communication & Language and Literacy

This term we will be using the book set of "Harry and the Dinosaurs" stories to base a lot of our learning around. These stories will help us learn a lot about everyday routines, help us to talk about our own experiences but also give us lots of creative learning opportunities.

We will also begin looking at non-fiction books this term in order to try and learn lots of facts about the dinosaurs we see in class.

And of course, all of this will be alongside our Phonics work which will continue with alternative sound patterns for the sounds we have already learnt plus reading high frequency and tricky words on sight. Keep practising those words in your word tins everyone!

Mathematics

I am sure the children are going to love all the dinosaur themed Maths activities we have planned for this term. We are easing back in gently with recapping our counting skills to 20 and recognition of these numbers in reading and writing also.

We will then move onto looking at shapes and beginning to use our 2D shape knowledge to help us name and talk about the properties of 3D shapes.

Then to finish the term off we will be focusing on measuring weight of objects using the words "lighter" and "heavier" but also beginning to use non-standard weights to measure the exact weight of objects—we may even see how much some of our toy dinosaurs weigh.

Understanding the World

Our "Dinosaurs" topic lends itself beautifully to this curriculum area and we will be doing lots of learning about the world alongside finding out about dinosaurs. We will be learning the words "herbivore" and "carnivore" within our topic lessons and finding out which dinosaurs were which.

We will also be looking closely at the features of different dinosaurs and thinking about how these features helped them to live e.g. sharp claws, sharp teeth, long necks, horns, spikes etc.

We will also be using the I-pads within class to help us research different dinosaurs and complete different dinosaur themed activities using interactive programmes.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

The children are going to be using their thoughts and feelings this term to talk about their likes and dislikes as well as similarities and differences. We will be using our "Harry and the Dinosaurs" stories to help us think about managing our feelings and behaviours, recognising the importance of health and hygiene as well as talking about our families and how they are all different.

We will also be reading the story of "Dinosaurs love underpants" along with the song about the "Pantosaurus" which will be reminding us of the importance that private parts should be kept Private based on the NSPCC initiative.

Creative Development

This term is going to be full of dino-tastic creations using very different materials - sock puppet dinosaurs, creating our own dinosaurs using Purplemash, soap bar fossils, drawing our names in hieroglyphics and having our own palaeontologist fossil dig.

In music this term we will also be learning about high and low pitched sounds along with rhyme and rhythm - which will also help and coincide with our PE lessons this term.

Physical Development

This term we are going to be developing our gross motor skills through "movement and dance." The children will continue to develop their control and co-ordination from last term, whilst having fun finding different ways to move creatively with the idea of dinosaurs as a starting point. We will be learning "The Dinosaur Stomp" as well as putting our dinosaur moves into a sequence.



Dates for your Diary



Wednesday 4th January - First day of Term 3
Monday 9th January - After school clubs to start this week
Friday 20th January - Mr Henson last day
Friday 10th February - Last day of Term 3
Monday 20th February - First day of Term 4



Just a few notes



Unwanted/Unpaired sock needed please

As part of our dinosaurs topic this term, we are hoping to get the children to design and make their very own dinosaur sock puppet. If anyone has any clean, unpaired socks of any size which they do not want any more, please could we request them in school. The brighter and jazzier the better but plain coloured ones would also be great. Many thanks.

Spellings & Homework

As of next week Orchard class homework is changing as we have now covered all of our phonics sounds which the children have done super well with.

We will now be starting on spellings with our Reception children, in order to improve our writing skills and awareness of high frequency words. Spellings will be given out on a Friday each week, for a test (completed in a very relaxed, low key manner for all children) to take place the following Friday within school. The spellings have a practice sheet with them in order for children to be able to learn the words throughout the week. The sheet also mentions three other ways that your child could practice:

Back write: writing sounds and words on a parent/partners back with our imaginary pencils.

Sky write: The same as above but writing the word in the air.

Rainbow write: Writing the word on a sheet of paper and going over it in different colours over and over.

Each child will also still be given their own reading book daily, which we encourage to be read as often as possible, and ideally every night. Reading books will be changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday as long as Parents/Carers have completed the reading record to show that it is complete.

Word tins will also continue to be checked every Monday and any words read correctly by the children will be changed for new ones.

Uniform & belongings

As we may still be in for some colder weather over the next few terms, please could we ask that all children come to school in a jumper or cardigan as well as a coat ready for them to use at play times. Please could we also ask that all your child's belongings and items of clothing are clearly named (in particular fleeces, cardigans and jumpers) to prevent them getting mixed up and lost easily. We do try and encourage our children to place their uniform on their pegs to keep them organised however at this young age it can be difficult and things do get lost at times.

Our PE day this term will still be a Monday but please can PE kits be in school all week.
Many thanks.

School Website and Tapestry

Please do keep checking our School website for updates and to look at what the children have been doing in class. Every term I ensure our class termly letter (this letter) and our class timetable is uploaded to our Orchard class webpage for you to see. I also update our page as often as I can with photographs and examples of the children's work for you the Parents to see. Just click on the apple icon in the tree on the homepage and it will take you straight there - Enjoy! [Home | Quadring Cowley & Brown's Primary School \(quadringsprimary.co.uk\)](http://quadringsprimary.co.uk)

Please do keep adding to your child's Tapestry journals also as we love to see what they have been showing you and teaching you at home. We try to keep on top of responding to these observations as much as we can as well as adding our own ones when we can. Please do let me know if you have any problems with your Tapestry log in. [Tapestry - Log In \(tapestryjournal.com\)](http://tapestryjournal.com)