

### Physical Development ...

We will begin to have regular handwriting lessons to improve our pencil control and letter formation.

We will form most of our letters correctly and our drawings will be more detailed and controlled, colouring within the lines.

This half term we will be learning to respond to music and rhythm with movements and to move our bodies imaginatively. We will remember sequences and patterns of movements relating to music and make up our own dinosaur dances! Once we have created our dances we will perform them for each other.

It is important that children arrive to school in their **PE kit** on a **Wednesday** (white t-shirt, black/navy shorts/joggers and warm top and trainers).

Remember that there should be no earrings worn on PE days. Please check your child's name is visible in all items of clothing.

## St Teresa's Primary School

### Reception Learning Guide

Spring 1 2024

## Were Dinosaurs Real



### This half term's BIG question...

*What starts life in an egg?*

### As expressive artists and designers...

The focus for art and design this half term will begin with winter. We will have lots of opportunities to use winter colours and different media to create icicle art, snowflakes and winter collage.

Through our literacy lessons we will learn about dinosaurs and endangered animals. We will use clay to make our own animals.

We will look at the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy and link it to dinosaur fossils, using different natural materials to recreate his artwork.

There will be lots of opportunities for us to develop our creativity and language skills in our indoor and outdoor role-play areas, including a winter wonderland, a dino dig and a dentist.

### Home Learning ...

'Help at Home' work books will be sent out each week with a phonics-based task.

Pick- and- mix homework tasks- this is a selection of topic related activities for the half term. Select which ones you would like to try at a time that suits you and send them back into school.

Reading – Children will be bringing phonics scheme reading books and tricky word cards home. Please try to practise 4 times a week.

### Key Events...

We will invite parents and children to a 'Bedtime Story' event where we discover the joy and importance of reading with your children.

Winter walk, we will explore what has changed from Autumn to Winter and collect natural objects to talk about in class.

### Everywhere Bear...

We have a class bear called 'The Everywhere Bear/Busy Bear'. He likes to go on adventures with us and spend time with us at our family homes. You might be lucky enough to have a visit from our bear to your house.

### As readers and writers ...

Phonics continues to be the most important part of our daily routine. It helps us to read and spell words, enabling us to write and read captions and sentences.

We will focus on Harry and the Dinosaur books this half term, giving us opportunity to explore family life and all of the adventures Harry and his dino friends get up to! We will use non-fiction books to expand on our interests from these stories, including dinosaurs, endangered animals, the dentist and Australia.

As writers we will create and write captions to describe our own dinosaurs and write postcards from Australia.

### As speakers ...

There will be lots of new language to explore in this topic linked to everyday activities like visiting the dentist to animals that are endangered and extinct. Please help us to reinforce vocabulary by talking to your child about what they have learnt in school. The more we hear words the more we will understand them and go onto use them.

We will be having lots of opportunities to ask and answer questions about how and why things happen.

Through the provision in the classroom we will be able to explore and develop our new language through play. Our 'dino dig' area, animal sanctuary and dentist role-play will support this.

### As Mathematicians...

Our focus for this half term will be counting objects, actions and sounds to 10. We will learn to recognise amounts to 5 without counting (subitise) and recall pairs of numbers that total 5. We will begin to understand how numbers are made up of smaller numbers, 'I know it is 8 because 4 and 4 make 8'. We will compare numbers to 5 (and beyond) using language 'fewer', 'more', 'less', 'equal to' and find 1 more and 1 less than a number.

In the water and sand we will explore capacity and begin to measure length and time in our play.

### R.E...

We will learn about different celebrations and how we gather together in church/mass.

### How can you support your child?

Read stories together as often as possible, talking about the characters and retelling the story.

Continue to encourage your child to be as independent as possible, managing their own hygiene needs and dressing themselves.

Practise forming letters correctly and writing numbers to 10.

Follow your child's interests and provide opportunities to explore and extend them.

Explain any new words to your child and encourage them to use them in different contexts.

### As investigators...

This half term we will become explorers and develop our interest in other countries. We will learn about Australia through 'Harry and the Dinosaurs go on holiday', information books and the Internet. We will compare where we live to Australia.

As historians we will understand that Dinosaurs were once alive but are now extinct. We will learn that they were living in a time long before we were born.

As scientists we will think about what dinosaurs used to eat and sort them into plant eaters and meat eaters

Through the book 'Harry and the dinosaurs go wild' we will look at endangered animals and their habitats.

We will spend some time exploring our local environment and how it has changed during the winter. We will investigate how we can make ice melt, the effects of sugar on teeth and make our very own erupting volcano!

### As a class member...

We will learn how we can stay happy and healthy by eating well and keeping our teeth clean.

We will share what is special to us, thinking about our families and friends.

We will think about how even though we are small we still make a difference in our world.

