



Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Senior Leadership Team

Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg

Assistant Headteacher: Sarah Dodd

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted to inform you that we have arranged for the children to have the opportunity to visit the famous Dippy the Diplodocus on his tour of the UK.

Who is Dippy?

Dippy is a replica of the Diplodocus, a herbivorous dinosaur from the Jurassic period, which is around 150 million years ago. At that time, Rochdale would have looked like a swampland.

Fossils of the original Diplodocus were found by workmen in Wyoming, USA in 1898 and the famous Scottish philanthropist Andrew Carnegie decided to fund a full expedition, so the whole skeleton could be unearthed. The skeleton was then displayed in Carnegie's Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where it has remained ever since. Not long afterwards, Carnegie was entertaining Edward VII at Skibo Castle when the King spotted a photograph of the diplodocus on the wall. The King told his host how much he would like one for the Natural History Museum and Carnegie decided to commission a replica. It is this same replica, which has wowed visitors to the Natural History Museum since 1905, which visitors to Rochdale will see when they visit!

About Dippy's tour

The Natural History Museum's famous dinosaur cast, Dippy the Diplodocus, has left the museum for the first time to go on a tour of the UK, and Rochdale has been selected as one of just 8 venues across the UK which will host him during the tour! The main aim of the tour is to inspire the next generation of scientists by giving them access to fantastic, nationally-important exhibits like Dippy.

Dippy started his tour in 2018 and has already welcomed over a staggering 1 million visitors as he has journeyed from Dorset to Birmingham and onto Belfast and Glasgow. In Rochdale, Dippy's only North West stop, he'll take pride of place in the award-winning customer service centre, library and council building, Number One Riverside, from February 2020 to June 2020.

The date your child/UKS2 will be visiting Dippy, which has been described as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity', is **Monday 2nd March**. The children will be leaving at 9.15am and will be back at school for 1.30pm. We will also have the chance to visit Touchstones Rochdale. Here, the children will be able to delve deeper into the natural world by looking at an exhibition which will include a prehistoric swampland, depicting the Rochdale of millions of years ago, and a biodiversity gallery.

There is no cost to visit Dippy, however we would like to ask for a donation of **£4.00** towards the transport of the trip. Please sign and return the slip below by **Wednesday 19th February**.

Any questions, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Hughes

Mrs Butterworth

Science Coordinator

Headteacher

I give permission for my child _____ to visit Dippy the Dinosaur.

I have attached a donation of £4.00: YES/NO/PAY BY SCHOOL MONEY

Signed _____

We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ

Evesham Road, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.
Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk



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The date your child will be visiting Dippy, which has been described as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity', is **Monday 16th March**. Key Stage One are visiting Dippy **in the morning** therefore normal school lunch time routine shall stay the same.

There is no cost to visit Dippy, however we would like to ask for a donation of **£4.00** towards the transport of the trip. Please sign and return the slip below by **Wednesday 11th March 2020**.

Any questions, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Hughes

Mrs Butterworth

Science Coordinator

Headteacher

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The date your child/LKS2 will be visiting Dippy, which has been described as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity', is **Monday 9th March**.

There is no cost to visit Dippy, however we would like to ask for a donation of **£4.00** towards the transport of the trip. Please sign and return the slip below by **Wednesday 4th March 2020**.

Any questions, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Hughes

Mrs Butterworth

Science Coordinator

Headteacher

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