

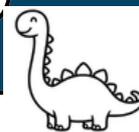
Daymer Class - Spring 2



Reading and Phonics

In phonics lessons over the coming weeks, we work on reinforcing the 14 vowel digraphs and trigraphs recently taught. The children will learn to read and spell words with double letters and words with two or more digraphs. We will work on reading and spelling longer words and to do this, the children have been taught a method called 'chunking' which means breaking a long word into two parts to make blending easier.

The children continue to read three times a week in school, bringing home a new book each Thursday.



Our Main Topic

Our whole-school focus this half term is 'Famous Explorers' and in every class the children will learn about famous people from the past. In Daymer class, our own topic is called, 'Stomp, Chomp, Explore!' and I'm sure the children will have told you about what this is all about - dinosaurs!

Our famous explorer is Mary Anning, the world's greatest ever fossil hunter whose awe-inspiring discoveries revealed a prehistoric world filled with strange creatures! The children will learn about her life and her work, and will also be explorers themselves - little paleontologists! They are so keen to share what they already know about dinosaurs and this has been the focus for our first week - talking, listening, sharing, reading - their enthusiasm has been wonderful and they are already fully immersed in their learning.



English

During this half term in Reception, we continue to build strong foundations in early reading and writing. The focus is on developing confidence, independence and a love of books and stories.

We continue to use 'Drawing Club' to develop reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. In these sessions the children talk about characters and settings, ask and answer questions about the stories we have read and make simple predictions about what might happen next. They learn to write simple sentences with growing independence, using finger spaces between words, using their phonic knowledge to segment to spell words and beginning to use capital letters and full stops. This term we continue to develop the foundations for confident, fluent handwriting. At this stage, the focus is on correct formation, pencil control and grip and fine motor strength. The children practise these skills in short sessions every day, and we are really beginning to see progress!

As ever, we work hard to foster a love of reading, sharing many books each day and underpinning all learning with quality texts.



Maths

In our daily maths lessons the children will be consolidating their understanding of the number system, working on numbers to five initially and then to eight. They will work on finding, subitising and representing these numbers in different ways, and on the composition of numbers to eight. They will learn to distinguish between odd and even numbers, and to find and make doubles. They will also learn about mass and capacity.

We continue to use the 'Number Sense' resources to support children to subitise numbers in structured arrangements and to link these quantities to the spoken number names, the corresponding number of fingers, and the written numerals we use to represent them.



Physical Development

This half term, the children in Daymer Class will take part in two whole-class PE sessions each week. These sessions are based on the Early Years physical development resource, 'Leap Into Life'.

Alongside these sessions we take daily opportunities to develop gross motor skills when we take our learning outdoors and use our lovely outside environment as part of our continuous provision. We work on fine motor skills daily too, in our 'dough disco' sessions and other activities in class.

Homework

We cannot stress enough the importance of listening to your child read at home. The learning happens in school, but lots of practice is required to embed this learning and to help your child to feel confident. It doesn't take long; a five minute reading session after supper or at bed time is enough to make a big difference. Please do find the time to support your child in their reading journey. We are always available if you would like a chat about how best to do this, and of course, as outlined in the reading meeting in the autumn term, lots of advice for parents is available on the Little Wandle website:

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Next week, please check book bags for information regarding phonics coverage for this half term, in particular, the digraphs and trigraphs which the children are learning, and also some tricky word guidance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to pop in for a chat or book an appointment—I'm always happy to help. Thank you for your continued support.

Lisa Cray

