

WESTERN ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Dear Parents/Carers,

This term's enquiry question is 'Where in the World have Dinosaurs been found?'

This term we will be learning to think like geographers through locating significant places where dinosaurs have been found and will be learning how to use maps and locate places on a map. We will also be comparing two places, learning about the similarities and differences between them. This will lead onto us identifying both the physical and human geography of places. We are planning a walk around Lewes to help consolidate the children's understanding of physical and human geography in our local area. A trip letter will be sent out shortly.

To support our historical aspect of the topic we will be reading a story called 'The Fossil Girl' which tells us about the life story of Mary Anning who became one of the most famous fossil collectors. We have received a letter from Mary Anning inviting us to go and visit her at the Booth Museum in Hove on the 17th January. We will take part in several activities there, namely sorting fossils, drawing scientific specimens and helping to run her shop 'Anning's Fossil Depot'.

In English, we will initially be learning about the features of a letter and will write a reply letter to Mary Anning after receiving her letter. Towards the end of the term we will be focusing on the talk for writing text 'The Little Green Dinosaur', where the children will be learning to imitate, innovate and finally invent their own story about a dinosaur. In our guided reading and whole class reading sessions we will be using 'Little Kids First Big Book of Dinosaurs' to support our learning about the different periods of dinosaurs.

In our Science lessons we will be learning about the characteristics of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Through using a flow chart the children will be able to reflect on their knowledge of an animal's physical characteristics to help them identify their chosen diet.

In Maths we will begin the term by learning about Weight and Volume. The children will weigh various objects and be able to make comparisons between them, they will solve word problems about weight and capacity. We will then move onto learning about numbers to 50. This unit focuses on interpreting, ordering and comparing numbers to 50. The children will develop an understanding of numbers to 50, including their place value and relative sizes, which will enable them to extend their calculation skills and number knowledge to larger numbers, and to an increasing range of situations. Children will also be introduced to counting in multiples of 2 and 5, and will be encouraged to notice that multiples of 2 end in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8 and that multiples of 5 end in 0 or 5. This term, the children's Maths homework will be set on MyMaths. The children will bring home their login details, which provides information as to how to log in and access the homework. If you have any questions regarding using MyMaths, please do ask at the gate.

Phonics will continue to be taught daily as a whole-class. Phonics is a fundamental part of the children's learning in Year 1 and we will set homework based on the phonics and writing we have been focusing on each week. We also ask that you listen to your child read for at least for 5-10 minutes per day. If you would like some further ideas for different ways to read with your child (that isn't always a school book), please take a look in the English Curriculum section on our school website. At school, we are reading with the children individually and as part of a guided reading group each week. Reading is also an integral part of our English lessons and daily routine. The children will be sent home with a decodable reading book every Monday. The children are required to bring in their reading record and reading book **every** day. Each fortnight the children will have the opportunity to visit the school library to choose a library book to take home.

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In PSHE, we will be focusing on our school value 'Courageous' and we will be learning about physical health and wellbeing which includes understanding our own feelings, appreciating the differences between our needs and wants and taking some responsibility for ourselves and others. In RE our focus is Judaism. The children will be partaking in Yoga on a Tuesday afternoon and will also be having a PE lesson on Wednesday, please ensure your child attends school in their PE kit on these days.

In Music we will be learning various dinosaur songs which will make it much easier for the children to remember the exotic and evocative names. The songs are factually accurate and cover a range of dinosaurs from the well-known Tyrannosaurus Rex to the lesser known Baryonyx Walkerei! We will be learning actions to support our understanding of the dinosaurs' characteristics.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to either of us before or after school.

Kind regards,

Ms Ferber and Mrs Bishop