

Acorn Update – Friday 16th October 2020

This week the children in Acorn class have been using playdough and clay. They have been finding out about the different ways dinosaurs laid their eggs and recreated these using the playdough they usually use for 'Dough Disco' on a Friday. The children learnt that The Maiasaura dinosaur (a new dinosaur to Acorn class) laid their eggs in a circle. Sauropods (long necked herbivores) laid theirs in a row as if they were laid while walking! The Hypselosaurus dinosaur (another new one!) laid football-shaped eggs in groups of five, while the Protoceratops cleverly laid theirs in a spiral. Look out for pictures of these in our half-termly newsletter, which will be emailed next week as part of the whole school newsletter. Later in the week, the children used clay to make fossils using some skeletons of their favourite dinosaurs. The children enjoyed squeezing, rolling and making a ball from the clay before patting it down to gently push the skeleton onto the clay. We have left them to dry and quarantine, but they can be brought home next week. The children were enjoying using the clay so much, that they then all made a dinosaur model too! This week the children have also been learning about reptiles (which were also alive at the same time as dinosaurs). The children learnt that they are cold blooded, have scales made from the same cells as our finger nails and that some live in water and on land.

In maths, we have been learning about doubles and halves. The children have been using the Part – Whole model and dice to find out if you can 'half' a number. They have also been using some actions to remember 'equal' 'cannot half' and 'can half'. See if they can show you!

In English, the children have been suggesting and writing similes to describe dinosaurs. They were amazing! A few example were 'A stegosaurus is as colourful as a chameleon' and 'A T-Rex is as long as a bus'. This week all the children have used their phoneme cards to have a go at writing and they have all done very well. We are feeling very proud of their learning.

Home learning:

All the children should now have a phoneme card and number formation-laminated card at home. Please contact us via the homework email if this is not the case.

This week the children in Reception have learnt more digraphs: oa ie ee or. If they/you are unsure about how to pronounce any phonemes, (sounds) please visit Acorn web page for a short video, which shows you how to pronounce them. I have heard that some parents are also learning the actions – so well done! Please continue to use Phonics Play to encourage your child to segment and blend sounds for reading <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk> - log in details are in last week's Acorn update.

Spellings: Next week the focus for year 1 children will be 'ar'. Your child will be practising the joined formation of this digraph and be reading and writing words, which include 'ar' as part of their morning task. Please practise the spellings for a test on **Thursday 22nd October** from your spelling list.

Phonics: Next week the children will be learning: **ng.v.y.x**. so please practise the phoneme and actions, encouraging segmenting and blending words with these phonemes in. The phonemes learnt this half term are: **s a t i p n c k e h r m d g o l f f b a i j o a i e e e o r n g v y x**.

Maths: This week the homework is to **collect and group 2D/flat shapes** (circle, square, triangle, and rectangle in the first instance). See what you can find at home or outdoors (you could go for a walk

looking for shapes eg windows, doors). See if your child can make these shapes out of something else eg sticks, wool, playdough, paint etc. Talk with your child about the properties of the shapes (counting the sides, are they straight or curved? How many corners does the shape have? Does it have corners?). Please photograph or email discoveries and grouping to the class email address so we can show and share them with the class (and give out house points). Children in **Year 1** should do the same for **3D shapes** (including cubes, cuboids, spheres, cones, pyramids). Please find and group objects and encourage talk about properties eg how many 'faces' (flat sides) does each shape have? Are the faces curved or flat etc. Please remember to send in photos.

Topic work: I have set a Purple Mash to write some *Dinosaur Similes*. If you hover over the words. It gives you a prompt as to what to write. Please talk with your child and come up with some similes together (adults scribing is absolutely fine). Maybe your child could 'drag' the matching dinosaur picture onto their work.

Paint projects: I have set a couple of fun activities on Purple Mash under 'Paint project'. The first is 'Dinosaur drag activity', where you can make a dinosaur picture by dragging the dinosaurs onto the scene and you can even make them roar and screech! The next activity is to draw your own dinosaur using the Paint tools. Have fun!

Homework has been set to finish on Wednesday 21st next week, so we can look at it ready for showing and sharing on Thursday as school is closed due to Staff INSET on Friday 22nd.

Enjoy the weekend and we will see you next week.

Miss Blake and the team.