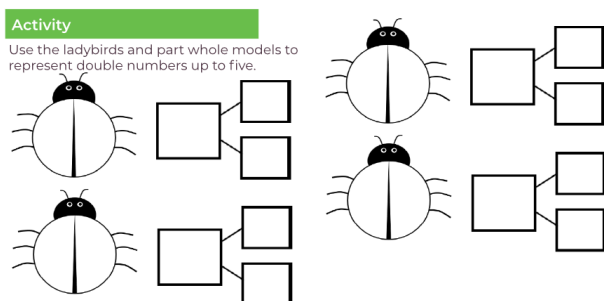


## Acorn Update – Friday 9th October 2020

This week we have been learning and reciting poems about dinosaurs, using actions to help us remember the words. One of the poems was about the Allosaurus, which we had not learnt about, so we used Andy's dinosaur adventures to help us gather information. We have also been learning about adjectives this week and have made a class list to describe all the dinosaurs we have learnt about. Children in year 1 have been writing sentences about dinosaurs, which have included adjectives. All the children played a game to sort adjectives from 'other' words. The children have also been looking at books about dinosaurs and finding out facts to share with the class. This helped when, yesterday we all became palaeontologists like Mary Anning and had our own dinosaur dig to find dinosaur fossils (apologies for any 'dusty' children!). It was hard work, but great fun! The children were able to look in their information books to find out about the dinosaur they had discovered. We watched a clip on BBC Bitesize all about Mary Anning and her dog Tray.

In maths, we have been learning about numbers which make 7,8,9,10 and also doubles. The children have been using the part-whole method to help with this learning.



The children in year 1 rolled two dice to decide how many spots should go in each ladybird wing. For example if a 5 and a 6 were rolled, then 11 spots would be placed in each side of the ladybird and written in the 'part' section. The children then counted the 'whole' amount of spots and wrote '22' in the 'whole' part of the diagram. We said 'Double 11 is 22'.

Children in reception used counters on their whiteboards to show 'the same' on each side (they drew a line down the middle of their boards). They practised saying '3 and 3 is 6' and then 'Double 3 is 6'. We will be continuing with doubles next week and then moving onto halves.

The children enjoyed Forest school this week and as part of the Muddy Feet wellbeing-learning tool, made Fairy houses, with natural objects. Many of these houses had carpets, a water source and some were even 'underground!'

This week the children have been continuing to build their knowledge of Herbivore and Carnivores. The children have been looking closely at pictures of dinosaur teeth and grouping them by whether they think they belong to a Herbivore or a Carnivore. After they had a go in pairs, we shared the name of the dinosaur and we grouped the pictures again using this information. We also learnt the names of two new dinosaurs.

This week the children have also been learning just how tall and wide some of the dinosaurs were, compared to a child. We used a trundle wheel to measure in meters. The Diplodocus was so tall that it would have been longer than the playground (by the big field) and most of the car park! However, a velociraptor was only the size of a dog!

### **Home learning:**

Your child will have brought home a number card and a white board pen to practise their number formation on this week. Please encourage them to start at the green dot and finish at the red. It is important that numbers are formed correctly, so please sit with your child if you are able. A wet wipe can be used to clean the board (best done when ink is wet).

This week the children in Reception have learnt their first digraph (two letters which make one sound) 'ai'. If unsure about how to pronounce any phonemes (sounds) please visit Acorn web page for a short video which shows you how to pronounce this weeks digraphs. Maybe play it with your child and they can join in!

**Spellings:** Next week the focus for year 1 children will be '**qu**'. Your child will be practising the joined formation of this digraph and be reading and writing words, which include '**qu**' as part of their morning task. Please practise the spellings for a test on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October from your spelling list.

**Phonics:** Reception children will be learning more digraphs next week: **oa.ie.ee.or**. Phonics play is a great resource for reading words linked to phonemes and digraphs. Take a look, if you have time. The link is: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk> The site is free to access until half term with the Username: march20 and the password: home – once logged in, click on Resources. The children are familiar with Buried Treasure and Picnic on Pluto. Select one of these games and click on 'Start'. To select a phoneme click on phase 2 to recap all the phonemes taught. If you want to try the digraph 'ai' click on phase 3. Have fun! Please send an email to the class address to let us know how you got on. Each email will mean a **house point** for your child.

**Maths:** A **Purple Mash** maths activity has been set for the children called '**counting to fill a 10 frame and a 20 frame**'. If you click on the picture of the 10/20 frame, it will enlarge to fit the screen (handy hint – as I couldn't even see it!). Encourage your child to count accurately 'one at a time' pointing to what they are counting (slowly is best). If your child is not ready to recognise the numerals, it is perfectly all right for them to tell you how many more are needed and for you to click on the number (whilst showing them what it looks like).

**Topic work:** The pictures of your 'Sockosaurus' were super – thank you for sending them in via the class email. These are now printed and in the homework folder to look at. Each child who has had a homework submitted has received a house point. This week the topic homework is to have a go at the '**Dinosaur labelling activity,**' which has been set on **Purple Mash**. If you would prefer to draw, make or cut out your own dinosaur to label, please do. Please email pictures to the class email: [acorn@sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:acorn@sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk) It is perfectly fine for adults of Reception children to write the labels, once your child has told you the words they would like written and pointed to where these parts are. Children in Year 1 should use their phoneme cards to help with spelling, if they are doing their own labels. It is fine for the children to spell phonetically, for example 'spien – spine, because they will know 'ie' is the correct sound. Another example would be 'plaits' – plates, as the children will know 'ai' is the correct sound. The labels on Purple Mash are written for you, but will need decoding (reading) which children in Year 1 should be encouraged to 'try and read'.

I am sure you will agree it has been another fun (and very busy) week!

So please, relax if you can and enjoy the weekend

Miss Blake and the team.