

Acorn Update – Friday 18th September 2020

Well done to our littlest Acorns who have completed their first full week in school. Although we have had some tired (thumb sucking) children, they have all done really well and we are so proud of them. The children have enjoyed eating their lunch outside this week, sat under a tree, in the shade. They have all managed their packed lunches very well too. Thank you for putting 'easy to open' items in their lunch boxes.

On Monday, we launched our topic of **Dinosaur Planet**, with a big talk about the type of Dinosaurs, which would have lived in the Jurassic period in our local area. The children became 'Palaeontologists' and looked at fossils which were found locally. They discovered that these fossils contained seashells, ammonites (related to squid and octopus) and the vertebrae of the Ichthyosaur, a dolphin-like creature. This gave us clues to draw the conclusion that our local area would have been under water. The children also had a close look at an Ichthyosaur vertebrae, which are commonly found in the area due to the fact that each animal had 180 individual vertebrae making up their backbone. A special thank you to the Heseltine Gallery for the loan of these fossils and the local information gathered by the Hornton History group. The Jurassic 'finds' are displayed in the chapel in Hornton as an exhibition, which is due to open soon (if you would like to visit with your family to see more amazing fossils and 'finds!')

In English we have been making a collection of words to describe pictures of dinosaurs that we have looked at. All the children were feeling confident enough to contribute to our Dinosaur class word bank. We have also been thinking of questions to ask Dino the Dinosaur, so that we can find out even more about dinosaurs over the coming weeks.

In phonics this week we have learnt the phonemes 's,a,t,i,p,n' and 'sh'. The children have been using these phonemes to make word banks and identify where the phoneme is in a word (at the beginning, middle or end). All children have been having a go at forming each letter, with year 1 children using joins with lead on and lead off lines. The children have been reading and writing words using the skills of segmenting and blending. We have been learning the alphabetic order of letters and the children enjoyed watching *Usher and the Sesame Street crew* singing the alphabet (I told the children I would tell you it is on YouTube!).

The children have been bringing home a sheet for each phoneme this week. Reception children should practise saying the phoneme and doing the action. They may colour the picture if they wish too. There is no expectation for them to write each phoneme, it is enough for them to recognise what it looks like and associate this with the action. Year 1 children **DO** need to practise the correct formation of the letters including the lead on and off line (enabling joining), it is essential that children **DO NOT** take their pen/pencil off to join or form letters (unless it is to 'dot' or 'cross' a letter). Please keep these papers at home so your child can practise the actions, phonemes and their handwriting.

A little reminder: please can all children have (and bring to school everyday) a book bag to put their work in. Some of the bags are lovely, but very small (and paper has to be folded), some are lovely but too big (so they don't fit under the tables). A book bag would be *just the right size* and will keep the paper flat.

In maths this week, the children have been doing lots of counting and recognising numbers. They have been problem solving involving 'one more and one less' and have made numerals from playdough. Children in year 1 have been using the 'more/less crocodile symbol (<>)' to show their

number knowledge too. We have all ventured out onto the big field with small pots to gather 'interesting' things, which we then laid out and counted one by one.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Forest school: Now the children have settled into the school routine, we will be starting Forest school sessions on **Wednesday afternoons**. Every Wednesday your child needs to **come to school** wearing full-length trousers and a long sleeved top. Please can the children bring their waterproof trousers/jackets or 'all in one suits' in a bag, which can be kept under their tables. Please can any children who do not have wellies in school, please bring some in (most children do now).

Homework:

Information for parents explaining how to access Purple Mash (our online learning platform) can be found on the homework page on the school website (under the 'For Parent' tab). This explains how to access the 2-dos for homework that has been set each week. All the children have been given their log in details, by hand, today. Here is the link for the homework part of the website:

<http://www.sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk/homework-guidelines-and-information.html>

Spellings: Next week the focus for year 1 children will be 'ch'. Your child will be practising the joined formation of this digraph and be reading and writing words which include 'sh' and 'ch'. Please practise the spellings for a test on Friday 25th September.

Maths: I have reset the number/word recognition task on Purple Mash, as only two children completed it last week. I have also set a similar task, which is called 'Matching digit(s) to words'. Again, please read the words to your child and support them in finding the correct numeral. I have set this for all of Acorn class.

Topic: I have reset the dinosaur matching and picture art on Purple Mash, so more of you can have a try. I have also set a 'Fossil Factfile' task for you. This involves dragging an image onto the page and using the sentence starters (click on the words for prompt questions) so that you can record information about fossils. Please can parents act as 'scribes' as the purpose of this homework is to see what the children know/have learnt about fossils at school this week. Give it a go – no pressure at all. Thank you.

Topic projects: Remember to look at the class web page for the range of Dinosaur planet ideas your child may wish to complete. It would be great if you could complete as many as you like to and share these with us by taking photos of what you have enjoyed and produced. Please email these to the class email: Acorn@sibford-gower.oxon.sch.uk **PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS GIVEN OUT ON LAST WEEKS ACORN UPDATE**

An apology: I am so sorry the phonics masterclass did not appear on the class page last week – there was a bit of a technical hitch! It should be on this week.

Well done to you all again, for a full week done!

Enjoy the weekend sunshine,

Miss Blake, Mrs Perkins and Mrs Evans

