



## Key Stage 1 Newsletter: Spring 1 2016



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to wish you a happy New Year. We have begun our term with excitement and enthusiasm about our latest topic DINOSAURS! Throughout the coming weeks we will be exploring the lives of dinosaurs, including where they lived, what they ate, how we know they existed and why they are now extinct.



### English

We have begun our term with a story called 'How to Grow a Dinosaur' by Caryl Hart and Ed Eaves. We will be developing our essential skills of using punctuation and phonics accurately by writing about Albie's adventures. We will become archeologists later in the term, creating dinosaur encyclopedias. Weekly spellings will be sent home, in line with the spelling pattern being taught in phonics lessons. Please support your child with learning these, writing them into sentences when confident. Children will continue to be taught reading skills during daily sessions.



'KS1 Reading Mornings' are on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** mornings. Parents and guardians are invited into our classes to share books from 8:45 – 8:55am. Please support your child's reading development by hearing them to read for at least 10 minutes each day. Children's reading books will be changed each Friday and they will also have a library book to bring home.



### Maths

In Maths lessons, we will start the term by focussing on counting confidently forwards and backwards in steps of 1, 2, 5 and 10. We will follow this with units of work on division and fractions. Our mental Maths focus 'On the Boil' across the school is division. See the attached poster, which in your homework book, outlining our expectations for each year group. Please support us by doubling to 10 and halving to 20, leading on to comprehensive recall of division facts. Do visit our school website for links to useful maths games.



### Science

Our Science topic this term will focus on using observation skills. We will make comparisons between dinosaurs by identifying features. We will explore fossils, using scientific vocabulary to describe. Using our story 'How to grow a Dinosaur', we will observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants, as well as finding out and describing how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.





### History

Linking to our topic, we will be finding out about life during the Jurassic period. We will discuss how we know that dinosaurs existed and ponder why they are now extinct.



### Geography

We will carry out research into where dinosaurs lived, using maps and atlases. We will make comparisons with our lives in Kidlington.



### RE

This term in RE, we shall focus on the different creation stories.



### P.E.

Mr Nutt has planned a variety of agility skills activities to challenge individual and team skills.



Please ensure that pupils dress appropriately when the weather gets colder. PE kits must be named. Please ensure t-shirts are plain and either white or house colours.



### Art and DT

Linking in with our topic, we will be making observation drawings, using a variety of materials. We will design and make our own dinosaurs.



### Music

We will explore sound, including pitch and rhythm.



### Homework

Each week children will be given a list of spellings that follow the patterns they are focusing on in class. They will be expected to read for at least 10 minutes each day. For maths, children have been given their individual login to RM Easimaths (<http://www.rmeasimaths.com>) and TT Rockstars (<http://www.ttrockstars.com>). If you do not have access to a computer, please discuss further options with your child's teacher. Homework books should be in school on Fridays.

