

Understanding the World (Science, History & Geography)

This half term we will be learning about Mary Anning and finding out why she is an important person in history and what she was famous for.

Alongside this we will be looking at coastlines and materials that we may find fossils in. We will also be making our own fossils and use them to become fossil hunters like Mary Anning.

In science we will be exploring mini beasts and microhabitats. We will discover the characteristics of an insect and understand how we can categorise mini beasts using this knowledge.

Expressive Arts (Art, DT and Music)

We will be looking at mini beast art and how we can use junk modelling and recycling items to create art.

We will also be making our own fossil art using salt dough. This half term we will not be completing music but will be exploring moving robots in computing.

Literacy, Communication and Language (English)

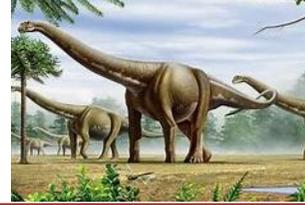
In literacy our main key text this half term will be 'Stone Girl, Bone Girl' by Laurence Anholt. We will be discovering Mary Anning's life and her love of fossils. To complement this book we will look at the non-fiction book of 'A First Book of Dinosaurs' by Simon Mole.

KS1 children will be looking at adding the suffix 'ing' and 'er' to words, using adjectives, noun phrases to enhance description and conjunctions (and, because, etc.) to extend their writing.

Reception children will continue to develop their formation of letters and segmenting words to spell and begin to write captions and simple sentences.

STARLING CLASS OVERVIEW- Spring 1

Dinosaurs and Fossils



Welcome back, hope you had a lovely Christmas break and managed some family time together. We are now going into the spring term and nearly half way through the year already.

We welcome Dixie and her family to Starling Class, she has already settled in well and built friendships.

We have a fun half term of learning ahead of us. Our school value is courage this half term so we will be working on resilience and not giving up when faced with a challenge. Can I remind you now that the weather has become cold and wet please can children come to school every day with a coat and also a hat, gloves if you wish.

I will be holding a parent phonics session on 22nd January at 3.30pm if you would like to attend to find out how we teach phonics and early reading.

If you have any questions then please do catch myself or Miss Holden at the gate or via Dojo.

Mrs Ball and Miss Holden. ☺

Maths

The NCETM programme is designed to give the children the opportunity to really embed the core skills and deep understanding of number which will assist them as they progress into Key Stage 2.

Year 1 focus: Comparison addition and subtraction of numbers 0-10.

Year 2 focus: Adding and subtraction within 10 and of two digit numbers and an introduction to multiplication.

Reception children will be following our Mastering Number programme focusing on a deep understanding of numbers to 5 and beyond.

Reading and Phonics

We will continue to read with your children three times a week during 'Reading Practice' sessions in school.

Please do read with your child at home and aim for at least 3 times a week to help with fluency. It is proven that children who read at home regularly are more successful in their reading and writing as they develop through their education.

Little Wandle Phonics will happen daily for Years R and 1 where they will be busy learning new graphemes and digraphs. We will send these home for practice as we learn them.

Year 2 children are embracing our new Spelling programme through Little Wandle phonics.

This will assist with spelling rules to help them choose the correct grapheme and digraphs in their writing.

Years 1 & 2 will continue to have weekly spellings sent home to practice ready for the Friday assessment.

Explorer Time

Explorer Time is built into the day for both Reception and KS1 children. Explorer time is a type of provision where learning takes place within play through either child-initiated or adult-led activities. Within Explorer Time we can play alongside the children while discovering their interests and challenge their thinking. This evidence base approach to learning shows that this is the most effective way for our youngest learners to achieve the ambition set by schools while also giving them the opportunity for brain breaks between lessons.

Alongside this play based provision the children benefit from engaging in social interactions which support their development of Personal, Social and Emotional skills as well as their mental wellbeing and teamwork.

PE

PE will be on a Wednesday afternoon with the sports coach Mr Lee and every other Friday with Mrs Ball. Please could you send your child to school with a named PE bag and kit. I am happy for you to leave their kit in school and send home at the end of half term if you wish.