

Curriculum update

22/11/24

Jurassic Hunter

We have had an exciting start to our new theme 'Jurassic Hunter'. During this theme, we will be learning about Mary Anning. She is famous for being the greatest fossil finder of her era, powerfully influencing the new science of palaeontology. She faced many adversities, including being disbelieved because she was female and also male scientists taking credit for her work too. We have learnt lots about her early life and her first discoveries. The children were intrigued to learn that originally Mary would refer to fossils as 'curiosities' as she did not know the name of them. The more she learnt about them she discovered the name fossils. Her first discovery was an 'ichthyosaur' also known as a 'fish lizard'. We have learnt how Mary Anning would have found the fossil and how fossils are formed.

Maths

So far this term, our focus has been subtraction. We have explored different ways we can subtract. This has included using: part part whole method, counting back using a number line, using 'first then and now stories' and using manipulatives. We have been challenging ourselves to record subtraction sentences using the correct signs. The children have shown good understanding that this is the opposite to addition and we have developed mathematical language to be able to explain this.

Christmas Production

We are planning ahead for our whole school production which is taking place on **Wednesday 18th December**. In Year 1 we are all going to be angels. We are kindly asking that you provide your child with angel outfit for the performance. This could be a white t-shirt with some tinsel or an angel costume - please don't feel you have to spend lots of money. Please can we have this in school by **Friday 13th December 2024** with warm clothes to go underneath e.g. white jumper/tights/leggings, ready for our dress rehearsal the following week.

Wednesday 4th December - Hereford Museum Visit (more details to follow)

Friday 6th December - Christmas Fete 3:30pm- 5pm

Wednesday 11th December - Class assembly
Drop off will be as normal. Children are then registered and parents will be invited in from 9:10 via the main entrance. The children will have the opportunity to share their learning with you and share their learning journeys. We would expect this to last approximately an hour.

Wednesday 18th December - Whole School Production at the Church, 6:30pm.

Friday 20th December - Disco

Phonics

We have worked our way through Chapter 4a in phonics focusing mainly on alternate sounds. For example, the different ways of making 'ai' 'ay' 'a_e' and which one to use and when to use it. The children are working hard to become confident to identify sounds within words to make them easier to blend. All of the sounds we teach have an action and character that go alongside them. We have added phonics mats and friezes onto the learning guidance section of the website. These are also being sent home in your phonics books to practise. You can then play games with these sounds e.g. writing a word with the sound in and getting your child to add sound buttons, writing a word and then chopping it up and rebuilding it, a word hunt in your house to collect sounds and build a word, rearranging letters to make a word, hiding sounds under cups and reading what each sound is, a game of sound snap. We are working hard to increase confidence with these sounds and any games or learning at home will support this. This is also closely linked with Spelling Shed/Phonics Shed games. We really appreciate your support by encouraging your children to play to practise their sounds.

Science

The children have enjoyed learning about animals this term. We are focusing on humans during the second half of this term, and we are learning about the parts of the body, the five senses, and will be carrying out some simple experiments linked to the different senses.

Much of our work at Forest School this term has been linked to our science curriculum. We have observed and talked about changes in the weather, and the cycle and features of the changing seasons.

During our reflection time and walks in the forest we have spent time thinking about what is happening in the world around us and have taken time to observe and discuss the changes in the forest environment.

Our visit to Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre

As part of our work in History, we recently enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Discovery Centre near Craven Arms in Shropshire. We heard about the story of Mary Anning, a famous historical fossil hunter who was alive during the early 1800s. We examined some amazing local fossils and loved making our own shell fossils using plasticine moulds and plaster-of-Paris. We were amazed by the size of the Condover Mammoth replica and enjoyed learning about all of the amazing fossils that had been discovered in the landscape near Shropshire Hills. We then became palaeontologists and worked in a small team to uncover some 'dinosaur bones' which we used to create our own skeletons of amazing creatures.

