

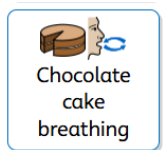
Welcome:

“What have you done today?” If the answer continues to be “nothing”, this newsletter will help support conversations at home and give you an idea of some of the things your child may be enjoying.

Inside the classroom, children have opportunities to explore: Small world, construction, mark making, maths games, creative activities including painting and crafting, fine motor exploration including loose part play and role play which for this half term is a home corner. Outside, children can explore gross motor play and large construction materials.

Within the first few weeks, the timetable is as follows:

- Funky Fingers (Fine motor/handwriting development)
- Phonics
- Literacy (Pete the Cat rocking in his school shoes)
- Choosing (Self-directed play)
- Snack (they have been encouraged to purchase their snack using counters to support early maths skills. Snack is 1 piece of fresh fruit and a carton of milk)
- Maths adult-directed activity
- Lunch
- Regulation activity led by trusted adults
- Maths practical consolidation activities
- Choosing (Self-directed play)
- Story/Singing
- Home



During Regulation Time, we have been practising Chocolate cake breathing. You hold your hands out in front of you and pretend to smell a delicious chocolate cake, you then hold your hand out in front of you showing 5 fingers. Each finger represents a candle that you have to practise blowing out. You repeat smelling the cake, blowing out the candle 5 times to feel calm and relaxed.

Phonics:

From Monday 14th September, we will be teaching Phonics. This is how your child will learn to read.

We will follow the scheme – Unlocking Letters and Sounds.

We would like to invite you to a parent workshop on Monday 21st September at 2.30pm for a 30-minute workshop on how to support your child with phonics at home.

Once the children have learnt some initial sounds and can begin to blend some sounds together, they will come home with a phase 1 activity or home reading book in their blue book bag. Families should be reading with their child at least 4x per week. The key to phonics is the regularity the child is supported to practise the skills. Books will be changed after your child has read their book 3 times. 1st time: Decode the book using phonic code, 2nd time: Read with some fluency, 3rd time: Comprehension skill around the book.

Maths:

We will be starting adult-directed Maths sessions from Monday 14th September. We will start with exploring numbers 0-5. Your child may already be able to count to 5 and recognise these numerals but we will be looking at these numbers in depth, finding different ways of representing that number and how to recognise these numbers in whatever way they are presented to us. We will set a Maths Challenge of the Week on a Monday via Tapestry.

Learning Experience:

Our Autumn learning experience is “The land of the Dinosaurs”. We will introduce this on Monday 21st September. If you are reading this before then Shhhh. We want to keep it is a big surprise.

The focus of the learning experience will be Understanding the World: The World. We will learn key vocabulary that describes and categorises animals. We will learn about how the world has changed since the time of the dinosaurs and introduce the concept of time and timelines. Within Understanding the World, we also explore people and communities. We will learn about Mary Anning, a famous palaeontologist and the impact she has had on our world. This learning experience will help us learn the difference between Fiction and Non-Fiction in our daily literacy lessons.

PE:

Both classes will have PE on Tuesdays. Children will need to come to school in PE kit.

We will start PE Week Beginning 14th September when they are in full time. The focus will be on moving and manipulating our bodies.

Forest School:

Both classes will have Forest School on Tuesdays. Children will need to have a coat, long trousers and welly boots to change into. These can be kept in school on their pegs.



EYFS Autumn Term

The land of the Dinosaurs

Communication and Language, Literacy,
Understanding the World

Rationale:

This half term, we are going to focus on children settling into life at Wincanton Primary School. They will be learning the school rules and boundaries and exploring both inside and outside provision. EYFS statutory framework tells us to consider HOW children learn and not just WHAT they learn. The EYFS lists Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning. To support your children to understand these characteristics and to notice it in their own learning we are going to have 3 class dinosaurs.

Tryosaurus – This is to recognise when children are trying hard in their learning. They persevere.

Thinkosaurus– This is to recognise when children are making links in their learning, joining ideas together and problem solving in their play.

Explorosaurus– This is to recognise when children are being active learners. Engaging in their own play, looking for opportunities to challenge themselves.

These will link to the curriculum values that underpin learning at Wincanton Primary TICC – Teamwork, Independence, Creativity, Challenge. Our Learning Experience of “The land of the Dinosaurs” will give us an opportunity to introduce these Characteristics but also support independent learning and adult directed learning around this experience.

Start Date : 7th September 2026

End Date : 23rd October 2026

Hook:

Children will have to find 3 class dinosaurs in the forest school area. There will be clues hidden from the classroom to the forest school area that the children need to follow.

Outcome:

We would like to invite 1 family member in for a shared play afternoon around the theme of dinosaurs. We are also going to invite pre-school practitioners from our local settings so they can see how well the children have settled. **This will be Wednesday 21st October at 2pm in your child's class.**

Key Learning:

Understanding the world, The World: Vocabulary including Herbivore, Carnivore, Omnivore. Timelines to show past and present. Wondering about the landscape a long time ago. Making comparisons of landscapes.

People, Culture and Community:

Mary Anning as an important person from the past and the impact she has had on our society.

Take home task:

Children need to make a “(own name) osaurus” e.g. “MrsGibsonosaurus, MissBundeyosaurus, MrsHillierosaurus”. They can use whatever medium they like to produce their dinosaur inspired by themselves. Cardboard, Paper, playdough, food, construction e.g. lego.



Bring to school by: Friday 16th October 2026.

How you can support your child at home:

Communication – Discuss how Dinosaurs lived a long time ago, before any humans. Talk about other things that happened a long time ago.

Literacy – To support early writing encourage them to move around your home, garden or park as different dinosaurs, fly like Pterodactyl working on their shoulder muscles, bend your arms like a t-rex to work on the elbow joint and show sharp claws like a velociraptor to work on finger joints. They could help peel cooked eggs to work on their fine motor whilst you talk about how dinosaurs hatched out of eggs.

Maths: If you have any dinosaurs at home or pictures of them try putting them into groups of 1, 2 or 3 and try to say how many are in that group without counting.

Understanding the world: We will be learning some key vocabulary HERBIVORE – CARNIVORE – OMNIVORE. As your child is eating meals at home can you group and categorise.

Understanding the world: Explore what the Natural History Museum have to offer online: www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/activities-for-all.html