

# Reception Topic List

SPRING TERM 1 2026

CLASS TEACHER: MISS GRANT

KEY WORKERS: MRS CHAUDHRY, MRS ALSABAH & MRS HAMID



Theme: Who were Mary and Joseph Anning and what did they discover? [Dinosaur topic]



## Understanding of the World



- The class will also be looking for signs of winter and find out about English new year customs and contrast them with Islamic new year. Reception will also be learning about who Mary and Joseph Anning were, and contrasting life in an English beach town during prehistoric times, and life there during the Georgian period with ours in Manchester today. They will learn about dinosaurs, countries where they've been discovered and the work of paleontologists. Pupils will be given opportunities to compare similarities and differences between animals that are alive now with dinosaurs of the past.
- They will also celebrate **World Hijab day**.
- **At home-** Ask your child to tell you what facts they know about dinosaurs, celebrations and Mary Anning. How was life different in the past, [PLEASE Let us know on tapestry which facts they recall and any new vocabulary pupils use.]

## Phonics

- Pupils will begin learning **Phase 3 sounds** e.g. **ch sh th ng ai ee igh oa oo ar or ow**
- The class will practise segmenting and blending multiple letter words.
- Practise reading and spelling tricky words He, she, me, be, my, by, you, they, all.
- **At home-** Please encourage them to play the Fast phonics games each week and ask your child to find the sounds and memory words in different books.



## Literacy



- Pupils will be encouraged to ask questions [and search for answers] about aspects of the topic that interest them.
- Teaching staff will model reading/writing sentences from different genres e.g. non-fiction books, diagrams, fact cards, journals, stories.
- We hope to inspire pupils to begin to make up their own dinosaur stories.
- **At home-** Ask them to share facts and retell dinosaur stories they have heard in class with friends and family. Can they think of their own new ending or a new character? Can they take turns writing a message or a password for family members to encourage writing.



## Mathematics



- The class will continue deepen their understanding of numbers 6, 7 and 8 by practising to subitise [instantly recognising the number of objects being shown in an irregular arrangement] by learning to notice different groupings and memorise number facts. They will answer questions such as what is 1 less than ... or can you total these 2 groups of objects.
- The children will compare length and height by e.g. measuring dinosaur toys and using objects, meter sticks/tape measures etc to understand how comparatively large real dinosaurs were or how short/small our dinosaur toys are. We will also talk about time, months of the year and try to sequence events and stories.
- Pupils will try to order the dinosaurs toys by their weight.
- **At home** - Practise mental maths questions for numbers 1-8, and weighing ingredients, ordering toys/ objects by size and using the correct vocabulary.



## Communication & Language



- Reception children will endeavour to extend their vocabulary and use the new terms in their play and when making up narratives or writing sentences. They will ask questions about dinosaurs and talk about differences and similarities between their life and Mary Anning's life in Georgian England. [e.g. cliffs, volcanoes, countryside,
- Name and describe dinosaurs attributes [claws, beaks, scales, plesiosaur, spinosaur etc] and compare to modern day animals.
- Recall interesting dinosaur facts / observations and share them with friends and family.
- Extend their vocabulary by learning e.g. dinosaur names and key topic terms such as palaeontologist, journal, predator and carnivore.
- **At home** - Encourage your child to tell you about their day in details using more expansive sentences, for example describe the signs of winter they have observed using more specific vocabulary such as frost, hail, icicle.
- Model and encourage using phrases like "I think it's because" and "it's so that..." to explain how they want to solve an everyday problem or commenting on how they think a character should proceed, or use time phrase e.g. next, afterwards, when planning what to do next.



## Physical Development



- Pupils will be given opportunities to manipulate tools when 'excavating' dinosaur bones. They will mould e.g. Playdough into dinosaur related shapes.
- Develop confidence hitting beanbags and balls with bats and balancing. Create and join in with Dinosaur inspired Gymnastics routines incorporating skills such as balancing and safely jumping off small equipment.
- **At home** - Encourage your child to develop their skills with small balls and bats. Encourage them to balance on equipment such as scooters, tightrope walk on lines on the ground, and even small garden walls. Engage in competitions for who can stand on one leg for the longest [maybe by holding onto a chair to begin with] Time it- can they beat their own record? Practice balancing a folded towel or small pillow on their head as they walk.
- Can they SAFELY jump off the bottom step of the stairs, can they jump over a cushion. Can they safely use park equipment.



# Personal, Physical & Emotional Development



- We will be reading books like the 'Dinosaur who lost his roar' and discussing how to be a good friend and the different emotions the characters experienced when the main character was pranking them. We will talk about their own and book character's emotions and discuss how best to respond to how they are feeling. We will be talking about how to be resilient.
- We will continue to practice collaborating on projects with other children and being independent.
- **At home-** Practise being independent, e.g. zipping up coats and putting on gloves, or completing a job like putting the cutlery in the dishwasher. Encourage your child to tell you what they have managed to do or they are currently practising and hoping to learn soon.

## Expressive Arts & Design



- Reception will be making dinosaur related artwork, looking at historic Georgian sketches and roleplaying as palaeontologists and dinosaurs.

## Quran

**Memorisation:** Surah Quraish & Al-Feel

**Revision:** Review the previous Surahs.

**Arabic alphabet:**

- Sing the Arabic alphabet song, learn to pronounce the alphabet
- Write the Arabic alphabet to recognize the Arabic letters
- Learn the letters س ش ص ض ط ظ ع غ



## Islamic Studies



- We study the Quran
- Ramadan moon, a special month
- Fasting in Ramadan
- Sahur/Iftar
- Eid-ul-fitr



## PE

- Movement and Space
- Throwing and Catching
- Team building games

