

Dear Parents,

We will be using the theme of Dinosaurs to introduce your child to different areas of learning. If you would like to follow this up at home here are a few ideas to try!

Talking

- Talk about dinosaurs. Find out which dinosaur is your child's favourite and why.
- Talk about the different types of dinosaur; carnivores, herbivores, flying and marine. Explain how they are different.

Making

- Make dinosaur masks with paper plates and craft materials.
- Make a dinosaur costume. Get a cheap green or brown T-shirt and stitch green felt triangles down the back to create spikes. Use fabric pens to draw on patterns and scales.
- Make dinosaur models with play dough
- Make fossils by pressing toy dinosaurs into play dough. (Homemade play dough recipe: mix 2 cups of plain flour, 1 cup of salt, 1 cup of water, 2 tablespoons of sunflower oil and a few drops of food colouring together in a pan over a low heat until it forms a soft dough. Leave to cool and store in a tupperware for up to two weeks.)

Playing

- Take toy dinosaurs outside and play with them amongst the shrubbery in the garden or park.
- Use the Internet to find out facts about dinosaurs. Use child-friendly websites such as 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures' on CBeebies (www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/andys-dinosaur-adventure).

Stories

There is a fantastic selection of picture books about dinosaurs available. Some great choices include:

- *Dinosaurs Galore!* By Giles Andreae and David Wojtowycz
- *Dinosaur Dig, Dinosaur Rescue and Dinosaur Zoom* by Penny Dale

- *Gigantosaurus* by Jonny Duddle
- *Dinosaurs Love Underpants* by Clarie Freedman and Ben Cort
- *Rex* by Simon James
- *Dinosaurs in the Supermarket* by Timothy Knapman and Sarah Warburton
- *Bumpus Jumpus Dinosaurumpus* by Tony Mitton and Guy Parker-Rees
- *Dinosaur Roar!* and *Dinosaur More!* By Paul and Henrietta Stickland.

Out and About

- Visit the library and find out more about dinosaurs from information books.
- Go to the local museum and view any prehistoric exhibits they may have.
- Find out if there are any sites of prehistoric interest in the local area.
- If possible, go fossil hunting in Lyme Regis on the south coast of England.

What Are The Opportunities For Learning?

- Developing an understanding of pre-history and the natural world.
- Asking questions, investigating and exploring.
- Learning how to find information from books and the Internet.
- Experiencing handling modelling and craft materials.
- Enjoying stories and imaginative play.