

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone, what a great first half term we had in 1D! I was amazed at how well the children all settled into the new routines of Year 1 and it was lovely to end the half term with our fantastic trip to Nell Bank. This half term is jam packed too with our new topic about Dinosaurs, as well as all our Christmas activities.

Routines: Most of the routines from last half term remain in place. PE days are Mondays and Thursdays. Reading books and skills books will still be changed once a week on your child's specific day. On Fridays all children need to bring their reading bags into class, so they can change their library book and take home their homework and spellings. Homework will go out on a Friday and be collected in on a Wednesday.

Children will now be taking home two reading books. This will either be two phonics books or one phonics book and one skills book.

Creative Curriculum: Our new topic for this half term is '**Dinosaurs.**'

In this exciting topic, we will combine historical and scientific skills to explore the question "**Did Sir Captain Tom Moore see any dinosaurs?**" To start the topic, we are learning all about Sir Captain Tom Moore's life and why he has become such an inspirational person during 2020. Following on from this, we will be researching everything there is to know about these amazing creatures from the past; from when dinosaurs existed, to what they ate and where they lived. We will learn facts about specific dinosaurs and comment on the similarities and differences between them. We will also be finding out about the famous palaeontologist **Mary Anning** and why her fossil discoveries were so important to science around the world.



English: In English, we will be studying the book 'Gigantosaurus.' We will be using this book as well as others, to make comparisons between fiction and non-fiction books, as well as learning about headings and how to use question marks. Using all our facts we learn about dinosaurs, we will then write our own non-fiction fact books.

Maths: In Maths, the children will continue to build on their knowledge of place value, focusing on numbers up to 20. The children will be working on ordering numbers, completing number sequences and identifying numbers on a number line. Within Year 1, the children will begin to develop an understanding that two digit numbers are made up of 'tens' and 'ones'. We will also continue our work on addition and subtraction, focusing on interpreting calculations that look different to 'normal'. The children have been developing their fluency skills with number sentences such as $2 + 9 = 11$. This term we will be exposing the children to calculations that appear in a different format e.g. $16 = 11 + ?$. This will develop the child's ability to problem solve and identify missing numbers. This half term we will also be learning about 2D and 3D shapes.

Science: In Science, we are continuing to look at **Animals including Humans**. We will be identifying and classifying a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will also be identifying and naming a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

R.E. We will be focusing on the question '**Why does Christmas matter to Christians?**'. Children will learn about the Christmas story and why Jesus is important for Christians. The children will identify aspects of their own experience and feelings at Christmas and ask questions about Christmas.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have - either in person in the playground or by contacting the office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Dunne