

## Early Year Unit: Nursery Newsletter - Spring 1

### Welcome

Welcome back to Hazel Leys Nursery and a big happy new year. We would like to thank all for joining us for our Christmas play and we hope that you enjoyed it and are as proud of your children as we are. Thank you for all your support last half term.

Nursery team

### Spring 1 focus

Our focus this term is dinosaurs. In this unit children will learn about two specific dinosaurs: the very familiar Tyrannosaurus Rex and the Stegosaurus. These two dinosaurs are very different and are a great choice to allow the children to compare the two. They will be able to discuss how they walked, what they looked like, and what they ate.

### Phonics

At Hazel Leys, we use the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* scheme. In Nursery, your child will take part in daily phonics sessions which will encourage them to listen to sounds in words, such as the sound that their name starts with. We will continue to use oral blending to develop their understanding of sounds.

**Phonics**

Please visit our school website to get up-to-date information about phonics at Hazel Leys.

<https://www.hazelleysacademy.org/page/?title=Phonics&pid=219>

### Literacy

This term, we will be using books to link to our learning about dinosaurs, including Dinosaur Bones, Never Show a T-Rex a Book and If I had a Dinosaur. We will explore the vocabulary in each of the books and add actions to help the children to remember them.



Every Friday, your child will choose a 'Reading for Pleasure' book to take home. This is a book to be shared with the adults at home. By reading a wide range of books, your child will be emersed in storytelling and will expand their vocabulary. **Please return the book on a Thursday and we will send home a new book on a Friday.**

### Maths

We LOVE to count in Early Years, we count everything and sing lots of number rhymes to help us remember the order of numbers when rote counting. This term we will be focusing on accurate number recognition and looking at number lines and ordering numbers from 1-5.



### Communication and Language

This term we will be focusing on many ways to help the children to develop their vocabulary. We begin with Phonics to help the children with their communication. We will also sing daily nursery rhymes and we will send a nursery rhyme home each week for you to practice at home with your child. We will also be reading a mixtures of themed books and reading for pleasure books within the nursery.



### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be looking at how to be a friend, why we come to nursery, being kind and sharing, telling an adult when there is a problem and explaining my feelings to others. We will also be looking at school rules and how to form friendships within my class.



### Physical Development

In nursery, we will be practising ways to move, encouraging fine motor activities. We will do this by using scissors, pencils, and cutlery, encouraging good posture when sitting at the table or on the floor and practicing ball skills. We also have dough disco every morning to strengthen our fine motor skills.



**Understanding the World**

This term we will be looking at different dinosaurs and talking about them being alive long before humans existed. We will also be learning about Chinese New Year and taking part in some of their wonderful celebrations.



**Expressive Arts and Design**

We will be looking at painting different types of dinosaurs and printing with dinosaur toys using their feet to make a pattern. We will also be creating Chinese New Year crafts and exploring why the colour red is so important during this celebration.



**Helping your child learn at home**

- Share the 'Reading for Pleasure' book with your child.
- Encourage your child to put on their coats independently.
- Practice counting objects at home.



**Rewards**

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude. Points can be 'spent' on prizes periodically.



**Skills Builder**

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities.



**Class information**

**Nursery team:** Miss Coupland, Miss Jakins and Mrs Pritchard



Please remember to bring spare clothes in for your child as we like to do messy play indoors and outdoors, we can leave this bag at nursery and take home when you need to change the clothes.

**Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask that you do not put anything in that contains nuts and to make it a healthy selection of food.**

If your child has a purple jumper, we do encourage them to wear this in nursery as we do a lot of messy play.  
Thank you.

**Dates for the diary!**



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – School reopens to pupils  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Newsletters to parents  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Maths drop in sessions



Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Children's Mental Health week  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Science week  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – School closes for half term