

# EYFS Newsletter



Ms Robertson, Mrs Hussain, Mrs Rehman, Ms Underhill, Mrs Akthar  
and Ms Khan

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Happy Half Term

Dear Parents, carers and pupils,

What a wonderful half term we have had. Our EYFS pupils have been incredibly busy catching up with their learning. It has been great to see children enjoying all the varied and exciting activities taking place over the half term alongside reading, writing and maths.

Children have been working really hard to improve their writing and reading skills through fast paced and systematic phonics sessions. Phonics is the first lesson we teach every day so please ensure your child arrives promptly to school at **8:30** so they don't miss the session.

I hope you all have a lovely time over the Half Term holiday. If you are looking for some half term inspiration have a look at the Half Term activity section to get some ideas for things you can do as a family.

Rest and relax over the holiday so you can come back healthy and ready to learn lots of new things in our exciting topic '**Are we there yet?**', where we'll be exploring travelling the world as well as starting transition into Year 1.

I would like to say thank you for the continued support you have given us, through the lockdown and after. Helping us support your child to fulfil their potential and helping them to get ready for life in Year 1.

**Miss Robertson**  
Director of Learning – EYFS



## Dates for your Diary...

**Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June**  
Half Term Holiday

—  
**Monday 7th June**  
Pupils return to school

—  
**21st June—25th June**  
Arts Fortnight

—  
**5th July**  
Class Swap

—  
**Tuesday 13th July**  
Reception Show 9am

—  
**Tuesday 13th July**  
Parents Evening

—  
**Friday 19th July** Break up for Summer  
—

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# Learning Through Diversity

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**'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world' Nelson Mandela**

**Come to school, on time, every day, ready to learn!**

School Target	97%	97%
	Spring 2	Summer 1
Primary Phase Attendance	89.1%	92.1%
EYFS Attendance	88.7%	90.2%
R1	91.4%	90.5%
R2	89.6%	89.5%
R3	85.0%	90.8%
Winning Class	R1- 91.4%	R3 - 90.8%
Class with the lowest attendance	R3 – 85.0%	R2 - 89.5%

Attendance during Spring 1 for the whole of the Primary Phase was **89.1%**. We are on the way to getting our attendance to where it needs to be– but are not there yet! In order to reach and exceed our target, we need all families on board and all pupils in lessons learning. Attendance for this half term, to date, is **?? %**. The school target of 97% attendance for each pupil is more important now than ever. With months of learning lost due to COVID-19, pupils are working hard to meet the expectations of the new year group and missing even a day puts each child behind.

Each day new learning is shared with pupils. Every day that your child misses from school results in them missing out on education and essentially falling behind. It is every parent and carers responsibility to ensure that all pupils are in school, every day and on time.

**Attend today, achieve tomorrow!**

All **EYFS pupils** should be in school for **8.30 am**. The register is taken at this time. Any pupil not in school at this time is marked late, which is recorded on the register and negatively impacts on your child's attendance percentage. Primary doors and gates open 5 minutes before the official start time ready for registration. This allows pupils enough time to get to their class, take off their coat and bag and be ready for learning to commence at 8.30 am.

The school has a dedicated absence line and if your child is absent for any reason please call on **0121 566 6600, using the pupil absence line on option 1** and leave a message. Medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside of the school day to ensure that pupils are in school and are learning. If, however, an appointment can only be obtained at a certain time, for example hospital appointments, an appointment card must be presented to authorise your child's appointment.

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## We are Authors

### The Book With No Pictures

B.J. Novak

Our key text this half term has been the **Book With No Pictures**.

'This book is really funny'

'I am a ROBOT monkey'

'Teachers have to say lots of funny things.'

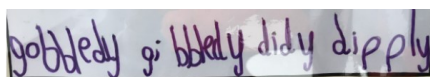
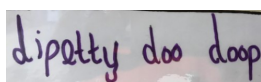
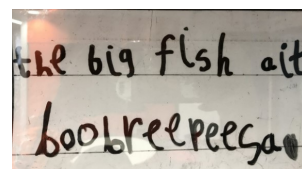
It's a silly book. I really like it'



We explored the book, drawing pictures to match the words and then practised telling and writing our own stories. To complement the book we wrote silly sentences and non-sense books.

"The big fish ate the blueberry pizza" Zakariya R1

We really loved writing silly sentences for our teachers to read.



### The Mermaid's family life

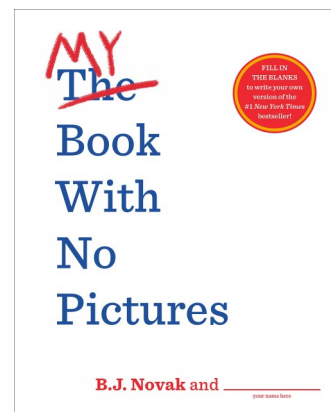
Narrated story by Ameera, Hirah, Aliyah and Renad. R3

A long long time ago under the sea there was a mermaid. She had red short hair, brown eyes and dark blue lips. She smells fish and roses under the sea. She could see the purple corals, the red and green stripy sphere watermelons and the star fish playing with music and other fish.

The pirate ship was under the sea. A shark jumped out from the pirate ship and punctured the mermaid. The mermaid felt scared and sad. Then she found a safe place in the crab's home as they were her friends.

The mermaid came out from under the sea and drank some water to make her human. She then found some clothes to wear. She wore a nice pink and red princess dress with purple flowers and light light blue diamonds. She wore pink Cinderella sandals. She put purple sparkly eye shadow, red lipstick and pink blush on her cheeks. Her hair was nice and straight. It was purple and sparkly on one side, the other side was pink and the middle was red. She looked so pretty.

A prince saw her and she made friends with him and went to his home and she made her family life and found her mummy.



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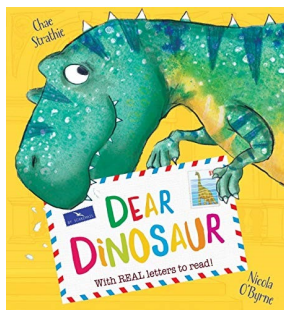
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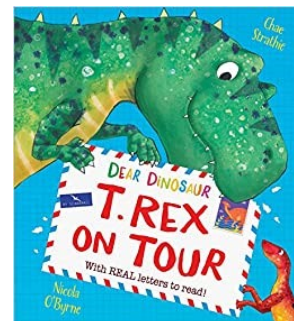


**'I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book' J.K. Rowling**



## We are Readers

Our second text of the half term has been **Dear Dinosaur**. A story about a little boy called Max who visits a museum and meets the curator. He then strikes up a pen pal relationship with the T-Rex.



Through the text we continued our learning about dinosaurs as well as exploring different styles of communication writing emails, postcards and letters, as well as exploring the importance of non-verbal communication.

Linked with our topic dinosaurs we have also been reading a lot of non-fiction information texts to help us research what dinosaurs were like, what they ate and what palaeontologists think they may have looked like.

We looked at how we can get information from different places such as books and the internet.



Phase 3 Sounds															
j	v	w	x	y	z	zz	qu	ch							
sh	th	ng	ai	ee	igh	oa	oo	oo							
ar	or	ur	ow	oi	ear	air	ure	er							
Tricky Words he she we me be was you they all are my her															

## Phonics

This half term we have completed phase three phonics and are ready to move into phase 4 after half term ready for Year 1. We have been focussing on writing sentences that can be read by ourselves and our teachers using our phase 3 sounds using finger spaces.

## Homework

Over half term please practise these with your children using the **homework** packs provided.

To support your child further online phonics lessons are available here:  
Just scan the code with your phone's camera.



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**'You can be anything, you want to be in this life' M.H Rakib**

## We are Palaeontologists

### Focus: **Dinosaurs and the Triassic Period**

Following our interest in dinosaurs, the children decided to become Palaeontologists. We explored how palaeontologists first came to discover dinosaurs, what tools they use and how they carefully uncover bones. The children set up their own excavating sites in our sand areas and carefully uncovered some scary dinosaur bones, then pieced the bones together to build the skeleton.



The children also explored the features of the Triassic period comparing it to our local environment. They concluded that were dinosaurs to roam our school grounds it would be dangerous for children to play outside at lunch time!

Finally, after discussing why dinosaurs are not around today and the theories behind their extinction, the children researched all about volcanoes. They were happy to hear there are no Volcanoes in Birmingham!



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## We are Scientists

### Focus: Volcanic Experiments

Upon learning about dinosaurs and how they became extinct, the children began asking questions on how volcanoes work. We decided to conduct some experiments of our own. The children began with making some 3D volcanic models and decorating them with Earthy reds, browns and greys.

On the second lesson the children conducted some scientific experiments to see whether the all-time classic 'bicarbonate of soda and vinegar' experiment works better to create a magnificent volcanic eruption or the exciting 'Coke and Mentos' experiment. The children made predictions, discussed what they think would happen, then readied their resources and took their experiment outside. The experiments produced some fantastic results and opened the children's minds to some amazing problem solving opportunities.



### Want to have a go at home?

Scan the barcode to see how its done



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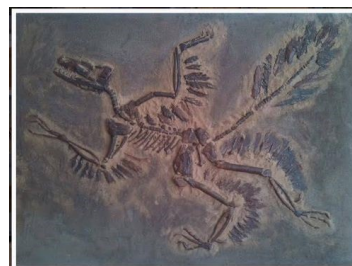


**“You don't take a photograph, you make it” Ansel Adams**

## Art

Focus Artist: **John House**

Focus Art Work: Clay Fossils



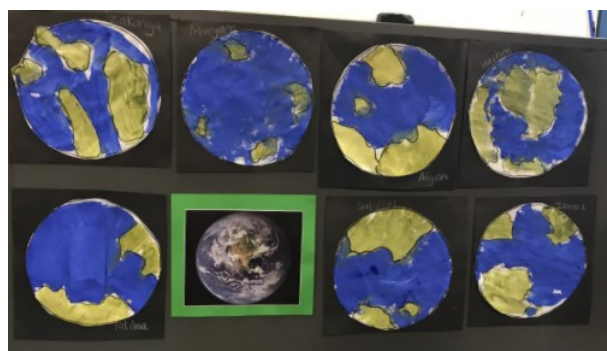
This half term we have travelled back in time to the Triassic period. We started the topic by exploring some fossils, discussing what they may potentially be and why they were trapped in stone. Inspired by the fossil artist John House, the children made a variety of fossils using natural resources. We took a walk through the school and collected some twigs, berries, seeds, sycamore seeds and leaves. The children used these natural materials as impression tools to make fossil patterns in clay. Some even arranged these materials as dinosaur bones to make dinosaur skeletons. Working with all that clay developed the children's motor skills through manipulating, moulding, squeezing and pressing. The children explored the beautiful patterns found in nature which have been around for millions of years.



We then moved onto looking at photography—in particular photos of the Earth from Space.

We have been learning about how dinosaurs roamed the Earth and were interested in what the Earth looks like. We looked at globes and then looked at photographs of the Earth taken from Space.

We sketched our Earths first before carefully colouring them in using paint—being very carefully not to mix colours.



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## Understanding the World

### Focus celebration: **Ramadan and Eid**

We have been learning all about a special celebration for the Muslim community: Ramadan and Eid. The children have been learning the virtues and traditions behind Ramadan of patience, forgiveness and self-awareness. The children have spent lots of time self-contemplating and discussing how to be better individuals in line with our school values of Humanity, Equality, Aspiration and Respect. The children have enjoyed making Ramadan decorations and sharing their family traditions with each other. At the end of Ramadan comes the fun celebration of Eid! The children have explored how Muslims celebrate Eid around the world. They shared pictures of them celebrating Eid with their families, all the lovely food they enjoyed and presents they received. The children made Eid cards for their friends and families!

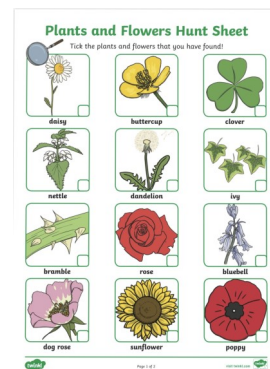
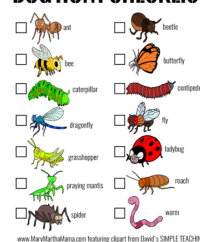


### Top 5 things to do with your children this half term:

- Go on a nature walk. Explore the local countryside. Can you name any trees or flowers?
- Plant cress and watch it grow
- Go on a bug hunt—what creepy crawlies can you find?
- Have a rainy day movie night with hot chocolate and popcorn, what is everyone's favourite film?
- Paint flowers—are you the next Picasso?



### BUG HUNT CHECKLIST



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