



Briar Road, Shepperton

Middlesex, TW17 0JB

Tel: 01932 563035

Email: info.saxon@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk

Website: www.saxonprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss N. Morris BA (Hons)
Executive Principal: Mrs M.E. McCarthy MA; Ed.M

Dear Reception Families,

The children loved finding out about different animal homes last week, with a focus on different types of bear. They enjoyed trying some honey, left as a gift by our class bears Patch and Cuddles, and loved having their teddy bear friends from home in school on Friday.

Learning

This week we will be learning about dinosaurs. This morning, the children discovered some footprints that led to eggs in a nest! I wonder, what could they be?

Communication, Language & Literacy:

We will share the story 'We're Going on a Dino Hunt!' by Yasmin Bond and Vicky Lommatzsch.

We will learn some new vocabulary and the Makaton signs for these words; **scaly, enormous, terrible, frightened, scary**. Can your child show you the signs?

Handwriting

We will practice forming letters from the **bouncy letter family**.

	Down, up and over the mouse's ears.
	Down, up and over the net.
	From the cloud, to the ground and over the rainbow.

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Phonics

We will be learning to recognise some new tricky words; **are, pure, sure, was, do, were, do, little, says.**

In our phonics lessons, we will practice reading CVCC words such as crept, blend, strong, sprint, and sort words with the sounds **ar** and **or**.

Maths:

This week we will work on our adding skills, working through number stories to find out how to add more, such as;

Some children are playing a game.

First, Joel is on square 5.

Then, he rolls a 3.

Now, what number will Joel be on?

NumBots

This week the children will bring home their log in details in their reading diary to **NumBots**; an online maths platform that helps children practise their adding, subtracting, counting, subitising skills. It also supports them with their maths fluency and recall in basic mental maths and equips them with maths confidence. The children had a look at some of the games in class and many were very excited to get started! We recommend playing for up to 5 minutes daily but this is not compulsory, just do what works for you and your child.

Other Areas of Learning:

- **UW (Understanding the World)** – we will learn about dinosaur habitats, observe and match footprints and make dinosaur biscuits.

- **PSED (Personal, social and emotional development)** – this term our topic is 'Relationships'. This week we will discuss how to help others feel part of a group and solve problems with friends.

- **EAD (Expressive arts and design)** – we will paint pictures of dinosaurs, create dino masks and make dinosaur poo out of salt dough!.

- **PD (Physical development)** - this term we will practice under arm throws, running in a straight line at speed, jumping with a one foot and two foot take off.

Notices and reminders:

- This term, we are having a big push on writing an independent phrase or sentence that can be read by others. This is one of the Early Learning Goals for the end of Reception and must be achieved for children to reach GLD (Good Level of Development). When writing, please encourage your child to say their sentence idea out loud a couple of times, then they can attempt to write words using the sounds that they know. The words may not be spelt correctly but if they are phonetically plausible this is fine e.g. happy may be written as hapee (with the 'ee' digraph), house may be written as hows (with the 'ow' digraph), bird may be written as burd (with the 'ur' digraph).

-In maths, we have been working on counting to 20 and beyond and we would like for all the children to be fluent in this before they reach Year 1. To support at home, play a 'ping pong' game of counting to 20 (or beyond if they can) in a pair where one person starts counting then the next one continues and so on. Please ensure children are emphasizing the 'n' sound at the end of the teens numbers. Thank you.

-If you have any unwanted small world dinosaurs or animals at home, we would be very grateful for any donations. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Morley, Mrs Duxon and Mrs Lewis