

Literacy

We will continue to practise recognising and writing our names every day, working towards being able to make more and more recognisable letter shapes that others can read. We will also continue to develop our vocabulary, learning lots of new words to describe dinosaurs (like scales, claws, armour and gigantic), as well as dinosaur names themselves. Elsewhere, we will develop our storytelling skills using small world scenes featuring swamps and jungles.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be making fossil models using salt dough, pressing different objects into the dough to create a variety of patterns, shapes and textures. We will also develop our colour mixing skills so that we can paint dinosaurs with care. Throughout the term, we will also be singing lots of dinosaur songs and continuing to practise our Rhyme of the Week.

Physical Development

We will develop our gross motor skills by stomping and soaring like dinosaurs, drawing massive creatures out on the playground and playing dinosaur musical statues. Our fine motor skills, meanwhile, will be developed through daily work on controlling tools (such as pencils and scissors) with growing precision. We will also strengthen our muscles by working with playdough, pegs, tweezers and elastic bands.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will work hard to become more independent throughout the day, washing our hands, putting shoes on and getting dressed on our own. We will also learn to use everyday tools such as cutlery, pencils, paintbrushes and scissors independently. Finally, we will talk about why it is important to eat healthily and exercise every day.

This half-term, we'll be learning about...



DINOSAURS!

LADYBIRDS - SPRING 2026

Communication and Language

We will continue to develop our vocabulary through our words and signs of the week, all linked to our dinosaur topic. We will be playing lots of speaking and listening games, taking turns to complete statements such as "If I were a dinosaur for the day, I would..."

We will listen to stories involving dinosaurs, talk about what we can remember and start to make predictions about what we think will happen next. We will also learn the proper names of lots of different dinosaurs, and describe what they look like, how they are similar and how they are different.

Understanding the world

Linking in with our dinosaur theme, we will be exploring a 'cave', using torches to get us thinking about the difference between light and dark. As we talk about dinosaurs, we will also begin to develop our understanding of past, present and future, recognising that things were different in the past to the way they are now (and will continue to change in the future). We will also be using child-safe magnets to make dinosaurs move, using our observations to find out which materials magnets do and don't stick to. We will also be using our observation skills (and lots of talk) when we're out in the forest, watching to see how the environment changes as the winter gets colder and animals hide away to avoid the frost.

Mathematics

We will be focussing on the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4, matching quantities to numerals and linking these numbers to the sides of circles, triangles and squares. We will also be on the look out for these numbers (and groups of these numbers of objects) in the world around us. In our daily maths lessons, we will also be learning to measure and compare weight, length and height. This will give us lots of opportunities to practise using mathematical language, such as heavier, lighter, longer, shorter, wide and narrow. Throughout the term we will continue to sing lots of our favourite number and counting songs, so don't forget to ask us to share these with you at home!

Literacy

- Sharing stories is just about the most valuable thing you can do at home. Try to read with your child as often as possible and talk to them about the story. Can they remember phrases from the story? Which characters do they particularly like?
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme, and they have provided guidance on supporting your child at home: www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

Expressive Arts and Design

- Act out stories together, sing and dance to favourite songs or encourage your child to tell you stories linked to their play.
- Talk about what your child has made at school and encourage them to describe the way they made it to you - and maybe have a go at making something similar together at home.

Physical Development

- Support your child in using mark making to share their ideas. These might not be recognisable letter shapes yet - any marks that have meaning to them count.
- Build an obstacle course in the house or garden together, running (carefully) around benches, crawling under blankets and clambering through boxes.
- Encourage your child to brush their teeth twice a day and talk about the things we do to stay healthy.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Support your child in becoming more independent - this might mean things take a little longer (or occasionally go a bit wrong), but it'll really pay off when we can all wash and dress on our own!
- Play turn-taking games together, and support your child in learning to wait for their turn and listen to others.

Ideas for supporting learning at home:



DINOSAURS!

LADYBIRDS - SPRING 2026

Communication and Language

- We will continue to use Tapestry to share work that we have done in school and share ideas for learning beyond school. You can log in, view work and add comments and pictures at eylj.org. Speak to a member of staff if you're not sure about how to log in.
- Read, listen to, retell or act out stories together - there are lots of great books that feature dinosaurs, like *Dinosaur Roar*, *Tyrannosaurus Drip* and *Ten Little Dinosaurs* that we'll be using in class, but the main thing is finding books that you can enjoy together.

Understanding the world

- Learn about dinosaurs together - how many can you name? What do they look like? Which ones are carnivores (meat eaters) and which are herbivores (plant eaters)? Which ones can fly? Which are biggest, fastest or most dangerous? If you're in London at any point this term, check out the real dinosaur fossils at the Natural History Museum.
- Look for animals in the garden, park or on days out - which ones do you know? What are they doing? Are they the same as the animals in books or films that we know? You could put food out for birds or hedgehogs in the garden and see how many new animals come to visit.

Mathematics

- Keep practicing counting, whenever and wherever possible - you could count houses on the way to school, footsteps on the way to bed, shoes in the house, players on the team, objects in the shopping trolley, claps, nods... Anything and everything you can think of!
- Practise writing numbers in sand, salt or water, or try making numbers out of groups of pebbles.
- Put objects from around the house into size order, encouraging your child to use the language like *larger*, *smaller*, *tallest* and *shortest* as you do so. Is the tallest object also the biggest and heaviest?