

Magnificent Me & Daring Dinosaurs

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our families to Portfields Foundation Stage. We are really looking forward to the exciting year ahead. This half term is all about settling the children into school. Our very first topic will be 'Magnificent Me' followed by 'Daring Dinosaurs'. For our Super Start to Autumn 1, we will begin our journey by playing and exploring, and getting to know each other. We will be helping the children to make new friends, to develop positive relationships with other children and staff and to learn the school rules and routines. For our Marvellous Middle, we will be transported back in time to find out all about prehistoric life with the dinosaurs. For our Fabulous Finish to our first half term, we will be having our very own dinosaur dig where we will hope to find lots of fossils. We will be ending the half term by learning about Diwali.

Communication & Language

In Communication and Language, we will develop our listening, attention, understanding and speaking skills. We will be supported over the first half term to begin to build positive relationships with others and we will learn how to introduce ourselves to our new peers and teachers. We will learn to follow instructions through silent signals. We will each have the opportunity to do our 'Magnificent Me' show and tell. We will share some information about ourselves and we can even bring our favourite book to school to share with our class.

How can I support at home?

Talk to your child positively about their school day. Ask your child questions about their learning and encourage them to answer in full sentences. Model language to your child whereby you provide opportunities to upskill their language by adding an adjective, synonym, antonym or action word.

Add an adjective:

Child: 'It's a tower.' **Adult:** 'It's a tall, blue tower.'

Use a synonym:

Child: 'It is big.' **Adult:** 'Yes, it's huge.'

Use an antonym:

Child: 'It is big.' **Adult:** 'It is big! It's definitely not small.'

Add an action word:

Child: 'A car.' **Adult:** 'Go car! Beep car'.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In PSED, we will develop our skills in self-regulation, managing self and building relationships. We will begin to talk about our own likes and dislikes and we with the support of an adult, we will try new activities. We will learn our school and classroom rules and we will try our best to begin to follow them. We will all share the responsibility of tidying our classroom and the shared areas. Each week we will have a different manners focus and we will learn new social skills.

How can I support at home?

At school we will use the phrase 'Choose it, use it, put it away'. You could replicate this language at home. Please see our PSED/Manners curriculum on the website for our weekly focus.

Physical Development

In PD, we will develop our gross motor and fine motor skills. We will start to use three fingers to grip a pencil and how to hold and transport scissors safely. We will be introduced to PE and we will learn a variety of different ways to move. We will begin to learn how to take turns.

How can I support at home?

Encourage your child to hold their pencil using three fingers. Allow your child to use child appropriate scissors to begin to attempt to cut paper. Remind your child how to hold their scissor safely.



Literacy

In literacy, we will begin to develop our phonic knowledge through the Read Write Inc. programme. We will learn to read the following individual graphemes: m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e. We will begin to hear initial sounds in words and to blend sounds into words orally. We will attempt to write the taught graphemes with the correct formation: m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e.

How can I support at home?

Use your Set 1 Speed Sounds Book to consolidate phonics daily. Read to your child every night. Play literacy themed games. E.g. I spy a c-a-t. Encourage your child to write their name, sounds that they have learned etc.

Mathematics

In maths, we will recite lots of counting rhymes and songs. Our first maths topic will be match, sort & compare. We will learn to: match pictures and objects, identify a set, sort objects to a set, explore sorting techniques, create sorting rules and compare amounts. We will then begin to talk about measure and patterns and we will: compare size, compare mass, compare capacity, explore simple patterns, copy and continue simple patterns and create our own simple patterns.

How can I support at home?

Give your child opportunities to match and sort objects at home. Discuss and create sorting rules for the objects that you have collected. Talk about the difference in size, mass or capacity of objects. Show your child a repeating pattern and follow them to continue it or find the mistake in it.

Understanding the World

In religion, we will begin discussing what religion is. We will have the opportunity to talk about important people in our lives and we will learn about people, things and places that are important to our peers. We will then be transported back in time to find out all about prehistoric life with the dinosaurs.

Expressive Art & Design

In Art, we will begin to select art resources for a purpose. We will use our selected materials to make our own creations. We will look carefully at our own facial features and then select the most appropriate resources to create self-portraits. Piet Mondrain is the artist that we will learn about this half term. In music, we will explore sound through our voice, body and instruments.

Additional Information

For more year group information, please visit the class pages on our website.

<https://www.portfieldsprimaryschool.org/children/class-pages>



Upcoming Dates

EYFS team:

Chestnut – Claire Bourne

Oak – Laura Ward and Laura Dolan

Elm – Darryl Lucas

Higher level teaching assistant:

Julie Nunn

Teaching assistants:

Roxanne Smith, Claire Montgomery and Hannah Ellis
