

Functional English

Key Books

Dear Dinosaur
Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs
The Dinosaur That Pooped a Planet

Reading:

This term, pupils will immerse themselves in a dinosaur-themed story journey through highly engaging, sensory storytelling experiences. Across the half term, pupils will encounter a range of dinosaur adventures that support early communication and phonics awareness. Each week links to a key initial sound from our stories. Through rhythm, repetition, movement and multisensory sound play, pupils will develop early sound awareness in a joyful and motivating way.

Writing:

Pupils will develop early mark-making and fine motor skills through purposeful, story-linked experiences. Rather than formal writing, the emphasis will be on exploring cause and effect, making meaningful marks and understanding that marks carry meaning. Pupils will create dinosaur footprints in paint and flour, press fossils into dough, explore letter shapes in sensory trays and make marks linked to rockets, planets and dinosaur trails. For some pupils, this may include tracing letters or matching sounds to objects. For others, it may focus on pressing, stamping, brushing and exploring textures with curiosity and independence.

All writing experiences will be embedded within meaningful contexts so that pupils experience communication as something enjoyable and powerful.

Functional Maths

Number:

This half term, pupils will develop number awareness through counting songs. Pupils will practise one-to-one correspondence using concrete objects such as dinosaurs and counting resources, supported by repetition and visual structure. The emphasis will remain on experiencing number physically and meaningfully rather than abstract recording.

Topic:

In topic maths sessions, pupils will explore sorting and classification using dinosaur resources. Through hands-on exploration, pupils will sort dinosaurs by colour, size and type, developing their understanding of same and different. Sensory trays and small group activities will provide opportunities for turn-taking and shared problem solving. For some pupils, this will extend into early comparison work such as identifying which group has more or fewer, and beginning to explore simple object tallies. As always, mathematical understanding will be developed through physical experience before moving towards symbolic representation.

Understanding the World

Science:

We will be looking at Evolution and inheritance with the topic being Dinosaurs. We will be reading a sensory story linked to different dinosaurs and exploring different themed items.

Humanities: History

In Humanities this term, pupils will explore the concept of “long ago” through dinosaurs. The focus will be on developing an early awareness that dinosaurs lived in the past. Through sand digs, fossil making, footprint exploration and prehistoric small world play, pupils will experience what life might have been like for dinosaurs in a sensory and developmentally appropriate way. As always, learning in Humanities will prioritise curiosity, exploration and communication over factual recall. Our aim is for pupils to experience wonder, develop early historical awareness and communicate their discoveries in ways that are meaningful to them.

Technology:

This half term we will be focusing on using different types of technology such as IWB, iPads and the light table. Within call subjects we will also be focusing on exploring different apps to support teaching and learning.

Semi-formal Pathway

Big Idea: Dinosaurs Class: Hayley Term: Spring 2

The quality of our curriculum is underpinned by our autism pedagogy which is responsive to the individual needs of each pupil. Our five-point star approach provides a framework where the pupil sits at the centre of all we do. We understand that receptive and expressive communication is key to learning and we adapt our approaches to individual need. We also recognise and understand sensory differences and the impact these can have on our pupils. Alongside this we support our student’s strengths so that they are motivated to learn. Our lessons are uniquely designed and personalised to prepare each pupil with their own skills and strategies for learning and life.

Peterhouse Preparing for Adulthood (PFA)

Accessing the community:

This half term, pupils will be developing their independence and personal safety skills through on-site cycling sessions delivered by Bikeability. Although we will remain within the school grounds, these sessions will focus on important real-world skills linked to keeping safe and building confidence.

Pupils will learn about the importance of wearing a helmet and following simple safety routines before riding. Through structured and supportive practice, they will develop early cycling skills using trikes, scooters and balance bikes. Sessions will focus on turn-taking, stopping and starting safely, steering, spatial awareness and responding to simple instructions.

Self-Care, Support, and Safety:

This half term, pupils will be focusing on self-care, support and safety. We will focus mainly on simple personal hygiene and self-care skills, including wash our hands, brushing our teeth and hair, and getting dressed. This will include putting on shoes and socks and putting coats on and taking them off. We will also focus on following a specific routine for using the toilet, individualised for each pupil. These skills are embedded into our daily routine, and used consistently throughout the day, however, during sessions, we will work in small groups to explore the skills needed more slowly and thoroughly, helping to individual the support needed.

Physical Development

PE:

Pupils will be continuing exploring our movements to music. Pupils are working on matching actions and props to a variety of musical pieces, including fast and slow songs and completing actions. Pupils will have opportunities to explore independently using equipment such as props along with working together such as using the parachute.

Expressive Arts

Art:

Students will explore dinosaur-themed art through printing, modelling, and texture play. Activities focus on movement, scale, and sensory exploration of prehistoric environments.

Curriculum Coverage:

Explore textures and make marks using hands or tools
Create shapes or forms to represent animals or objects

Music:

Pupils will be developing their awareness of sound by making simple patterns and interacting with others through dinosaur themed music examples. Pupils will explore instruments that mimic dinosaur movement and sounds such as stomping and roaring.

Creative Design Technology:

Pupils will explore dinosaur-related craft activities using craft items to create simple puppets from different craft items. Activities could include sculpting from dough, mask making, making from egg cartons.

