

This is the Year Two Newsletter – Walk the Dinosaur!

Yes, next Tuesday we're off to Crystal Palace to visit those prehistoric pachyderms, as well as to see the original site of the Crystal Palace and visit the maze, which dates back to Victorian times. Be mindful of the weather on the day and dress your child appropriately and administer sun block before school if it's going to be a scorcher.

PE kits for next week please! We're doing gymnastics from next week and need PE kits; plain shorts, plain T-shirt, send them in in a named bag, they can stay here for the rest of the term. Make sure names are on the clothes too!

English – Alice in Wonderland

To tie in with the era we're exploring and the links between Lewis Carroll and The Great Exhibition, we'll be doing some work on Alice in Wonderland over the next two weeks. The children will be immersed in the story and then rewrite it in sections.



How You Could Help At Home:

Does your child know the story of Alice in Wonderland? If not, you could read some of it this weekend. It is in the public domain, the copyright has long since expired, so you should be able to download it to some e-readers for free, or you could use the link here to see it in a web browser – <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/11/11-h/11-h.htm>

Is there a character your child likes? They could draw a picture and write a description underneath using some well-chosen adjectives to describe them. For the White Rabbit you could have: The White Rabbit is quick, twitchy and nervous.

Maths – Fractions of Amounts

Following on from our work on division before half term, we'll be looking at finding fractions of amounts, namely halves and quarters. We'll be using a variety of ways to find these, such as cubes, Numicon, drawing out Base 10 and number facts that the children already know, such as using the inverse of their doubles.

How You Could Help At Home:

Can your child find fractions of whole amounts? Fetch out some dried pasta and see! Give them some easy ones to start with – halves of numbers under 10; 8, 6, 4. They can find half by getting the right amount of pasta and splitting it into 2 groups using the 'one for me, one for you method', checking both groups have the same amount once done. Then they can try to find quarters, using the same method, but then halving one of the two groups they got the first-time round. They could try 16, 12 and 8 for that.

Science – Materials

We're going over materials again, to make sure of even coverage, as it was taught last during lockdown. We'll be kicking off by seeing how many materials the children know the name of, then getting them to describe as many of the properties of the materials as

How You Could Help At Home:

How many different materials do you have in your house? You could make a list and then see which materials are the most common, adding a dash next to each one to tally it when you find another example.

they can (hard, soft, rigid, flexible, transparent, opaque etc.) and then think of what different common uses the materials could be used for.



Art – Artist focus - Stephen Wiltshire.

We'll be looking at Stephen's drawing style and methods. This will set us up nicely for our walk to Blythe Hill week after next for some skyline drawing.

How You Could Help At Home:

Why not find out more about this amazing British artist from his website this weekend?

<https://www.stephenwiltshire.co.uk/biography>



History – Postcard From The Great Exhibition

Now the children know a little bit more about it, they are going to write a postcard from the point of view of Victorian tourist visiting for the day and sending a postcard to a relative who couldn't make it.

How You Could Help At Home:

How would the Victorians have travelled to The Great Exhibition? How was transport different back then? Why not do a bit of internet research this weekend and find out?



Computing – Digital Photography

The children will be getting out the iPads and having a go at taking some photos. We'll be challenging them, in pairs, to take a portrait shot, a still life shot and a landscape shot.

How You Could Help At Home:

Why not have your child take some snaps this weekend? Maybe you (or indeed they) have a digital camera, if not a phone would do. Rather than getting snap happy and just taking pictures of everything, have them really consider what it is they want to photograph and what distance and angle might be best. Send in any good ones through Dojo!

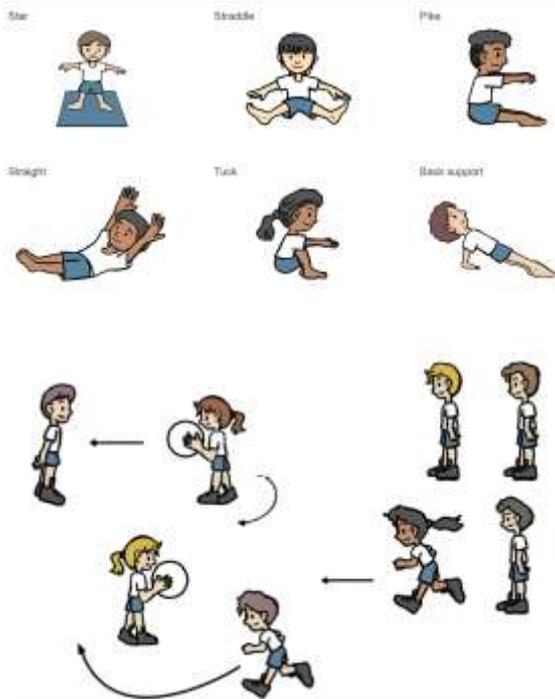
PE – Gymnastics and Netball

Lots of ideas –

<https://www.getset4pe.co.uk/ResourceBank/ResourceCategory/1002>

What we've gone with:

<https://www.getset4pe.co.uk/resourcebank/viewresourcefile?id=11400>



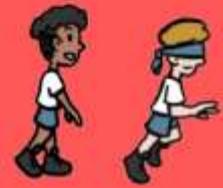
Blindfold obstacle course



What you need: A blindfold which could be a tea-towel or jumper.

People: 2 or more

Play: Inside or outside



How to play:

- Create an obstacle course using whatever you can find e.g. cushions, chairs, clothes, horse etc.
- One person begins blindfolded and the other person guides them around the obstacle course.