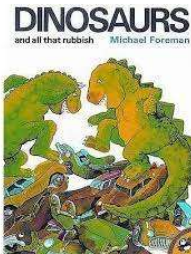


Topaz News

Dear All,



We have kept our space theme in the background but also introduced dinosaurs with one of my all-time favourite books, 'Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish'. It is a super book for those who love dinosaurs but is a gentle introduction into the need to look after the environment and not waste resources.

Next week we will continue to explore this. So far we have had some super paintings and drawings.

At home you could involve your child with your recycling and talking about the materials things are made from. (glass, plastic, cardboard, paper, metal)



We always like to encourage curiosity and as we see signs of Spring we will be looking closely and talking about what we see. You could also encourage this while you are out and about. In our forest session this week we looked at catkins and pussy willow. We have been using pastels to make observational drawings of daffodils in the classroom. We looked carefully at the stem, petals and trumpet.

We also had a fire in the forest this week and made toast which we liked a lot and we hope the birds enjoyed the toast we made for them too!



Phonics and Reading

This term we will be consolidating the sounds from our keyrings and building skills with using them in our reading and writing.



Thank you for your efforts with costumes for World Book Day. We had an incredible time. We are now joining the other classes in the hall for assembly and had a costume parade. Later in the day our Y6 friends came to share books with us. This was so successful that we are going to do it more often.

Please remember to sign the book to say when you have read/ practised phonics with your child. If it looks like you haven't read the book yet, it won't be changed.

I cannot stress enough the importance of 5 times a week phonic/reading practise. Even when they seem to be getting going, it is an important habit to establish. In our household it developed into daily homework as they got older without too much hassle.

Our final goal for reading in the new Early Years curriculum has now been split into a decoding goal and a separate comprehension goal. I am pleased about this as it highlights the importance of being able to talk about stories as well as decode words.

Have a relaxing weekend,

Sally Windmill

