



The Oakridge Schools Federation
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Year R – Sue Hendra / People who help us / Dangerous dinosaurs.
Spring term

Topic focus

This term we will be learning about the author Sue Hendra and will explore a range of texts that she has written including Supertato, Nobot the robot, Norman the slug with the silly shell and I need a wee. We begin by looking at the book 'Supertato' and may well have to see how we can save Oakridge Infant School from the clutches of Evil Pea! We then move on to learning about 'real life Superheroes' who help us in our day to day lives; for example firefighters, postmen, vets, doctors and nurses. During our theme 'Dangerous dinosaurs' we are learning about all dinosaurs, their habitats, what they eat and we will discuss that they are now extinct.

Helping at home

When you are out and about with your child, see how many people you can find who help us in different ways. You could ask them if you could take their photograph and write about their job and bring it into school - we would love to see it! I wonder how many different jobs we can find. Please use Tapestry to send us any pictures or videos of your family celebrations and special times together.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our focus in Jigsaw for the first half term is dreams and goals. We will explore how we can persevere to tackle challenges, how to set a goal and how to work towards it. We will also think about how we feel when we achieve a goal.

Our focus for the second half term in Jigsaw is 'healthy me', we will be looking at how to keep ourselves healthy with good food, exercise and sleep as well as thinking about stranger danger. We will also be continuing to work with the children on identifying and managing their emotions and different feelings, for example feeling scared or worried and what we can do to help control these feelings.

Helping at home

Talk about emotions and how the children are feeling at different points in the day. Encourage your child to look at facial expressions. Play a game where you as the adult make a face that shows a particular emotion for example smiling is happy, frowning may be cross and ask children to identify the emotion. You could also say an emotion to see if your child is able to express it.

Communication and Language

Throughout this half term, we will be listening to instructions and following them to complete a picture. We will also be retelling the stories we listen to during our story times and using these as a basis for our small world play. To further develop our knowledge of people who help us and dinosaurs we will also be exploring a range of non-fiction texts.

Helping at home

Hide small objects and give your child an instruction to find them. For example, the car is under the table, the bear is in the red bag on the shelf. You could develop this into a treasure hunt where your child follows simple written instructions like this to find treasure. Look at some non-fiction books based on children's own interests encourage them to look at the contents page to see what they would like to find out about.





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Physical Development

The Sports coaches continue to work with us in PE and this terms work will be ball skills. This focuses on a range of different ball skills, such as throwing and catching and kicking. There continues to be a wide range of finger gym activities in the classroom and outside, including some large scale weaving in nets. We are also working on forming out letters correctly so that others can read our writing.

Helping at home

There is an expectation that all children should be able to do their own coats up by this point in the year so if your child is not able to do this then please work on this skill at home with them. Letter formation practice using the formation video's on tapestry. This can be done in a variety of ways including using a finger in a plate of salt, water and a paintbrush outside, chalks on the pavement or rainbow writing on paper.

Literacy

In literacy we continue with our daily phonics lessons; using what we have learnt about letter sounds in these sessions to help us during our adult led reading and writing activities. Our reading sessions will also continue 3 times a week linked to the sounds we have been learning. Our focus in writing this half term is to be able to write an independent sentence. To do this, we need to remember our sentence and write all of the sounds we can hear in each word. We will be practicing this skill when writing thought bubbles, letters and a fact file about a dinosaur. We will be reading a wide variety of books. We will be talking about what is happening in the story and making predictions about what might happen next.

Helping at home

Please continue to listen to your child read the book in their book bag each evening as well as reading the books on the Collins E-books app. This is because it is important that the children spend time going over them to consolidate what they have read the time before. As well as books, encourage your child to look for and read print in the environment; signs on shops, posters in the town center - anywhere where there are letters! Encourage your child to write and mark make. You could practise writing letters on the ground with chalks or using paintbrushes and pots of water on the fence in the garden. Maybe they could write a shopping list for you or write a message to put in Mum or Dad's lunchbox. If you want some additional letter formation sheets please see your child's teacher who will be happy to give some to you. Look out for the weekly sounds of the week updates on tapestry too.

Maths

In maths we continue to practice counting forwards and backwards using numbers to 10. We will continue to develop our understanding of numbers to 10; becoming familiar with how each number looks as a set and a numeral. We will be learning the composition of each number; how it can be represented in different ways including some number facts to 5. In addition to this the children will be introduced to mass and capacity through practical activities and we will encourage the children to use vocabulary such as heavy, light, full and empty to describe the mass and capacity of objects.

Helping at home

Play number games like snakes and ladders to help your child count on carefully. Look for numbers in the environment - what is the biggest number you can find? What is the smallest number you can find? Count out small sets of objects and manipulate them in different ways 'how many do I still have?'. Play games with 10 objects, try throwing them into containers, how many did you get in and how many missed?

Understanding the world





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During our Chinese New Year celebrations we will taste some Chinese food and compare the celebration to others that we have learnt about.

The children will be introduced to the world of dinosaurs. We will discuss what the dinosaurs eating using the vocabulary of herbivore, omnivore and carnivore. We will explore the habitats the dinosaurs lived in and discuss the different types of dinosaur that lived. We will look at fossils and discuss that dinosaurs lived in the past. We will also be looking at different types of jobs that people have.

Helping at home

Talk about the weather each day and discuss appropriate clothes for each type of weather. Try making shadows using a torch inside. What shapes can you make? Talk about how the shadows are made. Please take this opportunity to talk to your child about road safety. Discuss the importance of stop, look and listen.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term we are exploring painting, using a variety of medium to paint with including paint brushes, sticks and feathers to make cave paintings. Modelling using salt dough to make dinosaur bones and continuing to allow the children to explore their own creativity to the craft areas. In our expressive art and design work we will create our own superhero accessories including our very own capes. During our focus week on Chinese New Year we will be creating Chinese dragons to use in a dragon dance.

Helping at home

We always need empty boxes of all shapes and sizes to use in school so please do send any in to us that you have going spare!

Thank you for all your support in helping your child on their learning journey in Reception. If you have any questions please do see your child's teacher.

