



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 learn about the author Sue Hendra and explore a range of texts 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, and what they eat, and we will discuss how 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, write about their job, and bring it to school - we would love to see it! How many different jobs can we 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 continue to work with the children on identifying and managing their emotions and 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 feel at different times 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, and frowning may be cross. 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 explore a range of non-fiction texts.

Helping at home

Hide small objects and instruct your child 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 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 term's work will be on ball skills. This focuses on various ball skills, such as throwing, 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 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 coats 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 videos on tapestry. This can be done in a variety of ways, including using a finger in a plate of salt, water, a paintbrush outside, chalk 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 practice 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 centre - anywhere where there are letters! Encourage your child to write and mark make. You could practise writing letters on the ground with chalk 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 up to 10. We will continue to develop our understanding of numbers up to 10, becoming familiar with how each number looks as a set and a numeral. We will be learning the composition of each number and how it can be represented in different ways, including some number facts up to 5. In addition, the children will be introduced to mass and capacity through practical activities. 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 on count 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 were missed?





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Understanding the world

During our Sue Hendra topic, we will be looking at the properties of materials using magnets to find the best shell for Norman the Slug as well as exploring different types of robots and how they have evolved over the years.

The children will look at the different occupations of people who help us, including doctors, nurses and police officers, to name a few. We will then look specifically at Florence Nightingale as a significant adult. We will then begin to think about what a palaeontologist is as an introduction to our dangerous dinosaur topic.

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

Helping at home

Discuss different occupations with your children talking about the jobs of friends and family and how their jobs may help others. 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 mediums 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 in 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.

