

KIRTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 3 NEWSLETTER 2024



Year 6

January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to welcome you to the start of our third term. We are really excited for the term ahead.

Our Topic

Term 3: Our World in the Future

Our topic primarily looks at how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and how adaptation is connected to evolution. We will take on the role of a palaeontologist and look at how living things have changed over time and how fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

Maths and English

In maths lessons, children will be learning about ratio and proportion, fractions, reading and interpreting graphs as well as different forms of problem solving. In order to support your child, you could look at the use of numbers in everyday life: cooking using fractions to measure the ingredients or looking at the ratio of each ingredient, and using time in everyday experiences.

It would really support your child if they were confident with their times tables. This would help them in all areas of maths. This term your child needs to learn: all their tables up to 12 x 12; corresponding division facts for the times tables up to 12 x 12; multiplication and division problems involving multiples of 10; and multiplication and division problems involving multiples of 100.

In English, we will be learning about character and setting descriptions, persuasive texts and non-chronological reports.

In order to support your child, you could look at the different information texts that are available about dinosaurs, and look at different forms of persuasive texts – perhaps considering advertisements in magazines or in newspapers.

The spellings your child will be learning this term may be accessed through our school website. It would be really useful if you could help your child to learn these spellings.

Please encourage your child to read at home every day and ask them questions about what they are reading at every opportunity. We aim to change books regularly.

Your child may bring a water bottle to school. Please ensure the bottle is clearly named and only contains water.

PE

Our PE day is Friday. Please ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit. For outdoor games, the children need plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms, a plain white t-shirt, a plain sweatshirt and trainers. For indoor PE, the children need plain black/navy shorts and a plain white t-shirt. Every item needs to be clearly labelled and in a bag that will remain in school every day. Kits will be taken home to be washed at the end of each term. No items should be taken home during the term.

Homework

Homework is set on Friday and will continue to support your child's education. It will include weekly maths and English activities as well as reading, some spelling investigations and multiplication facts. If there are ever any problems about the homework, please come and see us as soon as possible.

Important Dates

03.01.24 – First day of term 3
06.02.24 – Parents' Evening face-to-face
07.02.24 – Parents' Evening via telephone
09.02.24 – Young Voices Concert
09.02.24 – Last day of term 3
19.02.24 – First day of term 4

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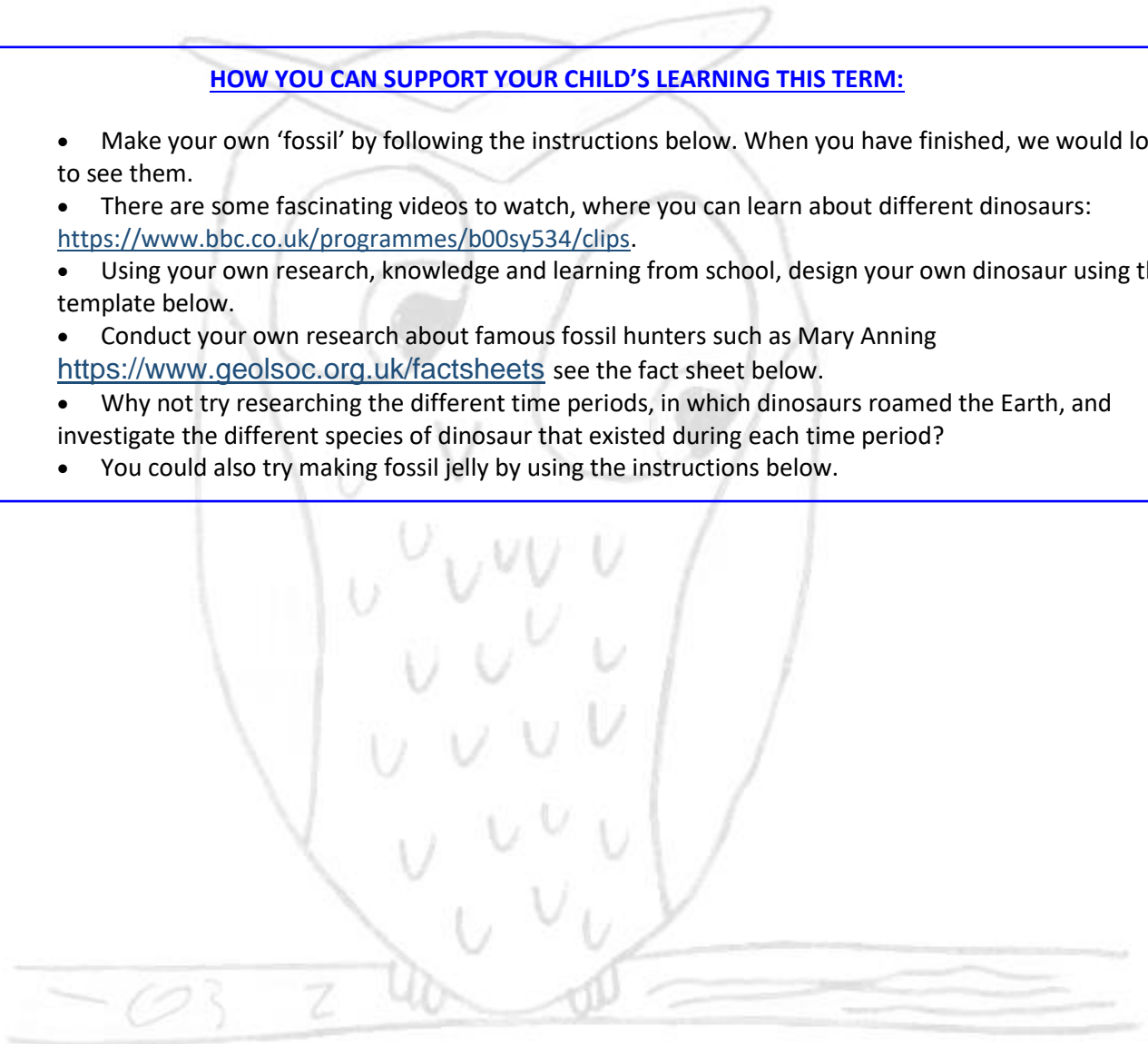
Please note after school clubs for Term 3 will start from Monday 8th January.

Yours sincerely

Miss Roberts Miss Wilkinson Mr Stanfield
Year 6 Class Teachers

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING THIS TERM:

- Make your own 'fossil' by following the instructions below. When you have finished, we would love to see them.
- There are some fascinating videos to watch, where you can learn about different dinosaurs:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00sy534/clips>.
- Using your own research, knowledge and learning from school, design your own dinosaur using the template below.
- Conduct your own research about famous fossil hunters such as Mary Anning
<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/factsheets> see the fact sheet below.
- Why not try researching the different time periods, in which dinosaurs roamed the Earth, and investigate the different species of dinosaur that existed during each time period?
- You could also try making fossil jelly by using the instructions below.





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Making a Fossil

Discover how to make your own prehistoric fossil.

You will need

- 200g salt
- 150g flour
- 150g coffee grounds
- 100-120ml cold coffee or water

DO NOT EAT THE FOSSILS – THEY WON'T TASTE VERY NICE!

1. Using a spoon (or your hands if you like getting messy) mix the flour, salt and coffee granules in a large bowl.



2. Add the cold coffee to the flour, salt and coffee granules mixture.



3. Mix the ingredients together until you have a smooth texture. Then place the mixture onto a flat surface.



4. Using your hands, knead the mixture for 3-4 minutes.



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5. Now to make an imprint onto the mixture. You could use your hand, a shell or even a toy to make the imprint.



6. Leave the mixture to dry for 1-2 days and you will end up with your own fossil.



Create your own dinosaur

Use the questions below to help you create your own dinosaur:

What period of the Mesozoic Era does your dinosaur come from?

What are the key features of the period you have chosen?

What other dinosaurs are similar to your dinosaur? Find out about their size, diet, movement and skin colour.

Can you describe the habitats and ecosystems of some of these dinosaurs? This is important in the design stage of your dinosaur because it will help firm up some of your thoughts.

How will your dinosaur's size help it live in its surroundings?

What does your dinosaur eat? What eats your dinosaur?

What does your dinosaur do when it is scared?

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How does it defend itself?

How does it move? How does this help it live successfully in its surroundings?

Use the space around the box to label your dinosaur's key features.

Draw your dinosaur here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a dinosaur.



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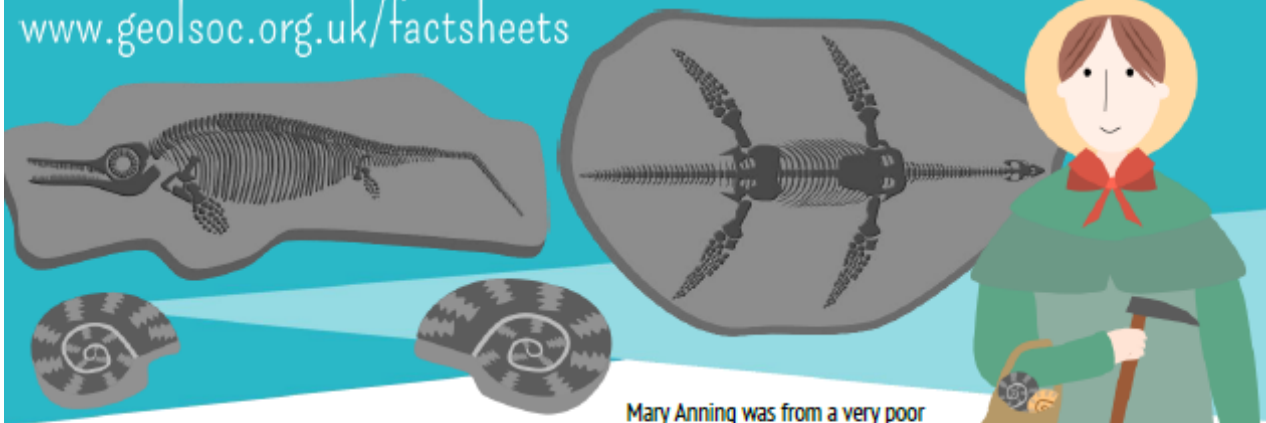
MARY ANNING

www.geolsoc.org.uk/factsheets



The Geological Society

-serving science, profession & society



Mary Anning was a famous fossil hunter and collector from the 19th century. Over the course of her life she made many incredible discoveries in her home town of Lyme Regis and became famous throughout the scientific world. Today, Mary is remembered as one of the greatest fossil hunters to have ever lived.

Mary Anning was from a very poor family. She could not afford to go to school, so she learnt to read and write at a church Sunday School.

Mary was very interested in learning about **geology**, the science of how the Earth works, and **anatomy**, the structure of animal bodies.

When she was a child, Mary would hunt for **fossils** on the sea shore with her father. They would often sell their finds in her father's shop. Unfortunately, Mary's father died when she was 10 years old and left the family in a lot of debt.

After her father's death, Mary continued to hunt for fossils in Lyme Regis with her dog Tray. She particularly liked to go out after big storms when the wind and waves would break up the rocks and expose new fossils.

In **1811** when Mary was 12 years old, she was fossil hunting with her older brother Joseph when he found something strange sticking out of the cliff that looked a bit like a crocodile skull...





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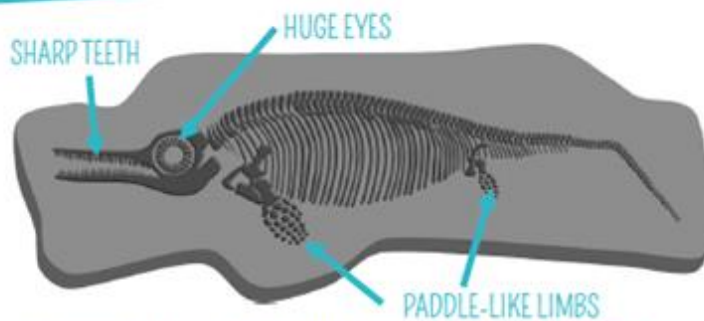
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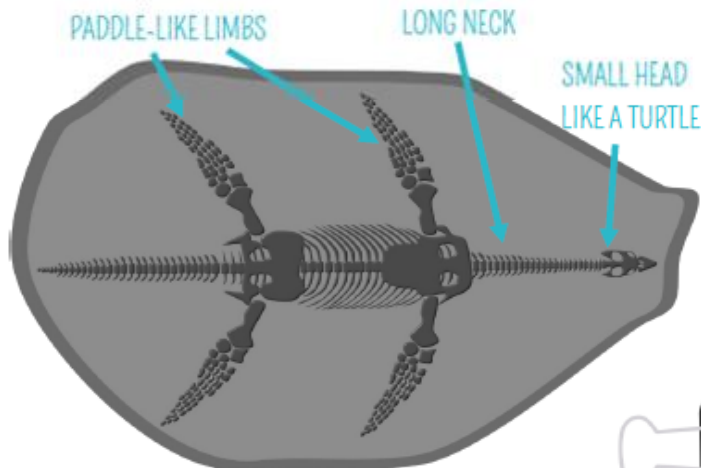
The Geological Society

sharing science, profession & society



What they had discovered was the skull of an ancient type of marine reptile called an **ichthyosaur**. Over the next year, Mary was able to dig out the rest of 5m long **skeleton** from the cliff. This was the first complete skeleton of an ichthyosaur ever found and made Mary famous with the scientists at the time.

In 1823 Mary discovered another remarkable fossil...



Throughout her life Mary Anning made lots of other important fossil discoveries. She found the first **pterosaur** (flying reptile) fossil in the UK, many important **Jurassic** fish fossils as well as more complete ichthyosaur fossils. She discovered that that squid-like animals called **belemnites** had ink sacs just like modern squids and she worked out that oddly shaped fossils full of fish bones were **coprolites** or fossilised poo!

Mary's work was extremely important to **palaeontology**, the scientific study of ancient life. By the time she died in 1847 she had gained a lot of respect from the scientific community. However, because Mary was a woman and from a working-class background she unfortunately couldn't join the Geological Society and whilst she was alive she didn't ever receive the full recognition she deserved.



Name: Ichthyosaur meaning 'Fish Lizard' in Greek

Time period: Triassic, Jurassic & Cretaceous (240 - 90 million years ago)

Habitat: Ocean. Large eyes mean they may have hunted at night or deep in the ocean

Diet: Ate mostly squid-like animals but sometimes fish and other ichthyosaurs!

It was the first ever **plesiosaur**, another type of marine reptile from the Jurassic period. Mary's plesiosaur is now on display at the Natural History Museum in London.



Name: Plesiosaur meaning 'near Lizard' in Greek

Time period: Late Triassic, Jurassic & Cretaceous (200 - 66 million years ago)

Habitat: Ocean. Plesiosaurs may have used their long necks to sneak up on prey from a distance

Diet: Ate mostly fish and squid-like animals.



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Fossils in the rock record

The age of a fossil can be found by looking at the age of the rock layer it was discovered in. In this activity you will make a sequence of jelly layers (representing rock) which contain sweets (fossils) inside a jar.

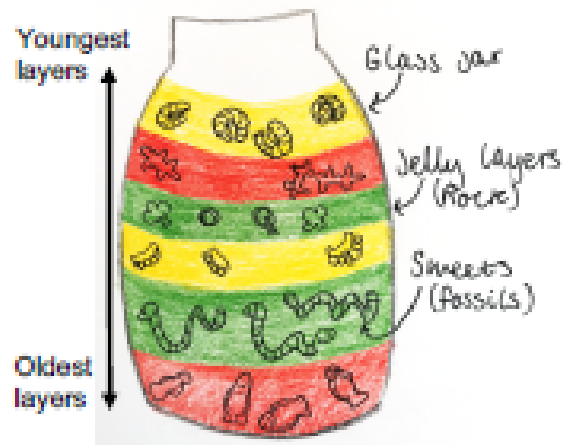
You will need:

- A large glass jar.
- Different colours of make your own jelly cubes or gelatin.
- Sweets that look like animals or are interesting shapes (e.g. Gummy Worms, Foam Shrimps, Jelly Babies, Haribo) .

Instructions

1. Make your first colour of jelly as per the packet instructions. You want to make each layer about 2-4cm so how much you need to make will depend on the size of your jar.
2. Pour the first layer of jelly into the jar and mix in one type of sweet. This is your first rock and fossil layer.
3. Leave the jelly to set in the fridge (you might need to leave overnight).
4. Make your next colour of jelly and mix in a different type of sweet. Gently pour this over the first set layer of jelly in the jar and put back in the fridge to set.
5. Continue making layers of different coloured jelly and sweets until your jar is full!

The result



You will now have a jar with different layers of jelly and sweets like in the drawing above.

The jelly at the bottom of the jar is the oldest, whilst the most recent layer of jelly is at the top. This is also true for the sweets inside each layer.

The same idea can be related to fossils inside rock. This can tell us about what kinds of animals or plants lived in each time period in the history of our Earth.