



Welcome back, Year 2!

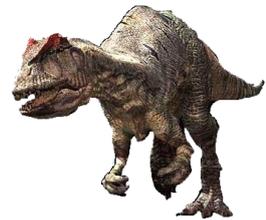
Dear Parents/Carers and children,

We hope that you had a fantastic Christmas break and are ready to get stuck into 2019! After a successful autumn term, we will continue to make the curriculum as creative and as fun as possible, enabling the children to succeed in their personal targets and enjoy the term ahead.

Our cross-curricular topic this term will be the best of the lot: '*DINOSAURS!*' This is a great topic, as it can include history, geography, science, art, music and PE. Year 2 will be able to answer such questions as: *What are dinosaurs? When did they live? Why are they not around anymore? What was the biggest dinosaur? What did dinosaurs eat?*

We will be learning about the history of the dinosaurs and how we can use fossils as historical records. In geography, we will be looking at how the Earth has changed since the time of the dinosaurs, and we will be making moving picture dinosaur books in DT. Studying dinosaurs also allows us to explore the basics of evolution and life on Earth, looking at Charles Darwin as an important, local historical figure. In science, we will be looking at what a dinosaur is in a technical, zoological sense and we will be exploring life-cycles of various animals. This links into the *Relationship and Sex Education* work that we didn't manage to fit in the autumn term.

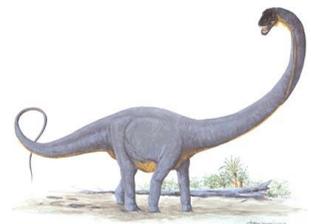
SPELLING CHANGES: We are moving away from weekly tests of spellings, as there is little evidence to suggest that it improves children's spelling. We are using a different model where spelling conventions and rules will be taught daily, with a weekly focus. The children will operate a 'spelling journal' in school where they will record their learning as well as lists of words. There will be some testing, but most assessment of spelling will be in their writing, where it matters. Getting spelling right in a test is one thing; spelling accurately in your writing is another thing entirely. Despite no regular 'tests', it is still important that you continue their spelling learning at home through discussion of the spelling convention being looked at, and thinking of words that might use it. For example, if we are learning the *-j / -g / -dge / -ge* sound, then spotting these words in books you are reading, or discussing when these sounds are at the start or ends of words would really help your child.



In addition to the exciting topic work, this is a term where year 2 will be working hard to collect evidence in writing and maths to inform out teacher judgements at the end of the year. With this in mind, it is **vitaly important** that your child is heard to read regularly, and practises spellings and x-tables facts a few times a week.

Here are a few quick reminders of what your child needs to bring to school:

- **PE KITS:**
 - OUTDOOR PE: **Tuesday** mornings.
 - INDOOR PE: **Thursday** mornings (2Y) and **Wednesday** mornings (2X)
- **READING DIARIES:** should come in every day, especially on Friday.
- **WOODLAND WORK: 2Y will be doing Woodland Work every Monday until half-term.** Please make sure your child's kit contains **waterproofs** and **warm clothes** as the weather is not usually kind in this term! Again, it would be better for the children to arrive at school in their scruffy clothes rather than uniform. **2X will resume Forest Schools after half-term.**



Please feel free to speak to us if you have any questions whatsoever about anything.

Thanks for your support and help,

Mr. T. Larkham and Mrs. K. Young