



The Warbler- Wrens and Robins Newsletter

(part of our Bellbird Early Years offer)

Summer 1- Weeks 3&4

Time Travelling Detectives!

Wrens and Robins have been time travelling detectives for the last two weeks! We thought about the concept of past, present and the future and considered how events have happened before today and even before the children and their parents / grandparents were born. We made a big washing line timeline across the classroom to put events from history in chronological order. We all fancied being time travelling detectives, so the children constructed their own time machines (some powered by things such as fire, water and even carrots!), made time travelling remote controls, wrist watches, ID lanyards (to prove who we are) and very sturdy time traveller's helmets! The children were ready for an adventure!

A mysterious egg...

The next day a mysterious egg appeared in the woodland area. The children decided to make a nest to keep it warm and help it to hatch. Inspired by the story 'Meg's Eggs', they wrote spells to try and crack the egg and cast them with hand-made magic wands. They puzzled as to what was inside... was it a unicorn, a dragon, a chick or a fairy? By the morning, the children's magic spells had worked! To everyone's surprise it was a... baby dinosaur!



Time travelling to the Mesozoic Era...

Time machines at the ready, we adventured back 245 million years to the time of the dinosaurs! We read the story 'Old Gran's Bones' by Michael Cole and practiced ordering the events and retelling the story using our story map. In the story, Gran and Jim grow beans up the dinosaur bone fossils they had found. We decided to do the same with our peas and the children made their own dino skeleton puppets for their peas to grow up! We then learnt all about different types of fossils and how they are made. The children had a go at making their own mould fossil of a dinosaur, using salt dough, and they made replacement fossils out of pasta. We learnt all about Mary Anning and the fossils she found and we closely examined real fossils brought in by Mrs Wheeler. After this, our expert bunch of palaeontologists got to work excavating dinosaur fossils in the sand and the woodland area. They carefully rearranged the fossils to make dinosaur skeletons and noted their names down in their palaeontology notebooks. Good job everyone!



Dinosaur spotting!

Dinosaurs have been spotted in our woodland area! There has been much speculation amongst our littlest learners as to why the dinosaurs are here. Have they been frozen in time only to wake up in 2023? Have they come to find their hatchling dinosaurs? Have they stolen one of our time machines? The children's investigations are ongoing!



Spell-a-thon: Thank you for your support in helping your child learn the tricky words for our school 'spell-a-thon'. For our Reception children, this will take the form of an informal fun quiz in small groups on the 26th May so that we can celebrate their success!

All about pants!

We enjoyed learning all about our new King, Charles III, and we considered why he is a Bellbird superstar. We designed him a new crown for the coronation. We read the book, 'The King's Pants' and the children designed him a new pair of underpants for the occasion! It turns out that 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants' as well! So, we designed some for them too!

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Phonics

In phonics, we have been practising reading longer words with more than one consonant at the beginning and end of the word, like scrunch, sprint, squelch and even chimpanzee (ask them to spell it!). We have been adding -ing on the end of these words, like squelching and -ed that makes a /t/ sound like bumped. The children have also been using their phonic sounds to sound out the names of dinosaurs!

New tricky words: were here little says there when what one

Maths

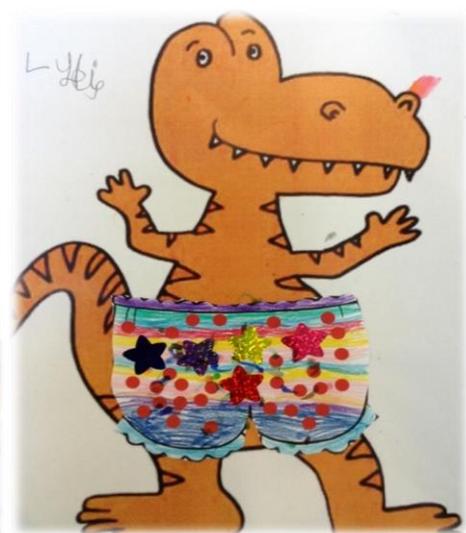
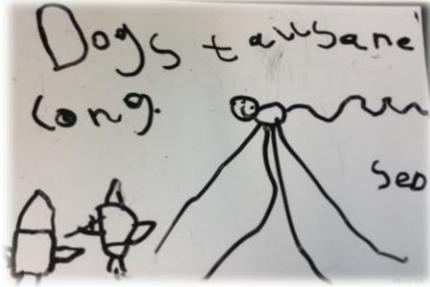
In Maths, we started to explore what the number 100 means! We noticed that it was ten lots of ten. Wrens and Robins made some fantastic paper chains that were 100 links long. We then revisited 2D shapes like rectangles, squares, circles, triangles and semi-circles. The children experimented by rotating and matching these shapes to make pictures of dinosaurs. They noticed how they could do the same with numicon to make some brilliant dinosaur pictures.

We have now moved on to learning about adding by counting on. We start by putting the amount we have in our heads then counting on using our fingers to add the amount we want. We have played lots of adding games to help us.



Things to try at home

- **Talking point-** Have a chat with your child and ask them why they think the dinosaurs are visiting our school. What theories have they got? What dinosaurs can they remember?
- **First to 20 game-** You will need a dice and some Lego or Duplo blocks. Roll your dice and stack the correct number of blocks to make a tower of 10. Take it in turns to add blocks to your tower. The first to make two towers of 10 is the winner. As you are adding blocks, get your child to notice how many blocks they have got (e.g. one 10 and 3 more is 13) and how many more they need to make 20.





Examining real fossils!



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