



The Warbler- Wrens and Robins Newsletter

(part of our Bellbird Early Years offer)

Summer 1- Weeks 5 & 6

Fossils galore!

Wrens and Robins have been continuing their dinosaur adventures by learning about replacement fossils and whole-body fossils. Though we couldn't wait the millions of years needed to make a fossil, the children managed to create their own replacement fossils using clay and plaster of Paris. The children also enjoyed excavating the baby dinosaurs who had got trapped in ice and amber, safely reuniting them with their parents. Good job!



New species of dinosaur found at the Bellbird!

We looked closely at different species of dinosaurs and the children identified the features dinosaurs had to help them attack other dinosaurs and defend themselves. They were fascinated by frills, humungous horns and sharp teeth the length of rulers. They were also intrigued by trumpets, bony tails and bad breath! With these features in mind, our littlest learners were challenged to create a new species of dinosaur. The results were amazing- from herbivore 'Hamee' with his long neck, spikes and big feet, to omnivore 'Roasee' who has a long tooth, plates, super speed and likes eating ladybirds! The children then made their new species of dinosaur out of clay. Well done on such creative ideas Wrens and Robins.

The children then drew pictures of their favourite dinosaur using oil pastels, constructed dinosaurs out of loose parts, painted dinosaurs (imagining all the colours they might have been), rescued dinosaurs stuck in volcanoes, made their own junk modelling dinosaurs and sang dino songs. All in a day's work for Reception at the Bellbird!

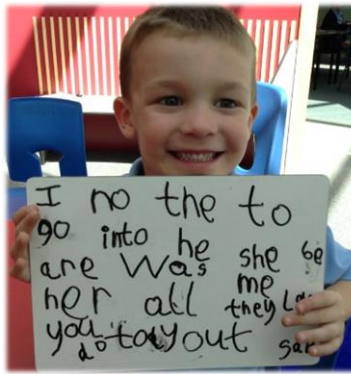
Dear Dinosaur...

We read the book 'Dear Dinosaur' by Chae Strathie about a boy who decides to write letters to a T-Rex in a museum. The children decided to write to our dinosaurs to ask them questions and see if they got any replies. Children asked such questions as 'How loud can you roar?', 'How old are you?', 'What do you sound like?' and 'Do you like to eat chicken?'. Amazingly, the dinosaurs replied to our budding writers. They were thrilled to find letters waiting for them when they arrived in the morning.



Dino dinner

The children learnt all about what dinosaurs liked to eat and they considered which dinosaurs were carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Some delicious dinosaur feasts were cooked up for the herbivores in the mud kitchen! The children were also careful to keep the herbivores away from the carnivores when they were creating their own Jurassic Parks. Our learners identified and selected the dinosaurs to go in different locations in the park to ensure that none got munched for dinner!



Spell-a-thon: Thank you for your support in helping your child learn the tricky words for our school 'spell-a-thon'. The children were amazing! Bravo!

Goodbye dinosaurs

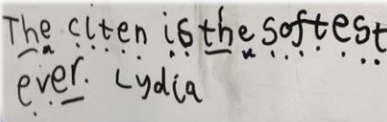
We rounded off the half-term by learning about dinosaurs of the sea and pterosaurs of the skies. Children showed perseverance and determination when trying to make waterproof plesiosaurs and teamwork when making pterodactyls that actually flew across the room! Eventually it was time to say goodbye to the dinosaurs. The children made them one final time machine to see them back to the Mesozoic era, complete with gifts of chocolate and teddies to take home with them!



Phonics

In phonics, we have been continuing to practise reading longer words with more than one consonant at the beginning and end of the word. We have added new endings such as **-ed** that makes a /id/ sound, like in the words melted and grunted. We have also added **-est** to the end of words to mean the most of something, like in the words such as softest and strongest.

New tricky words: out today



Maths

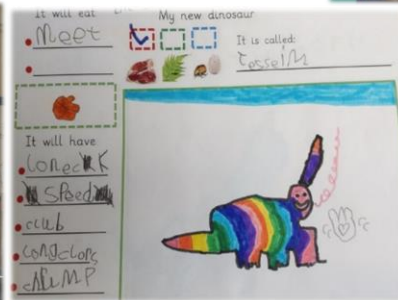
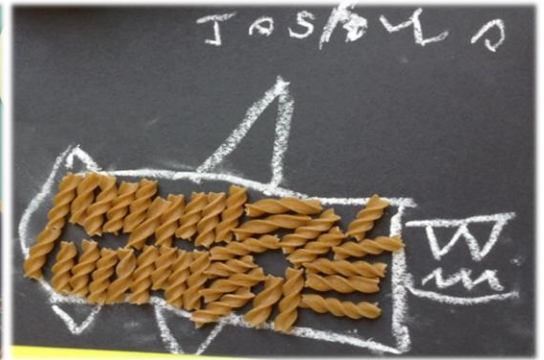
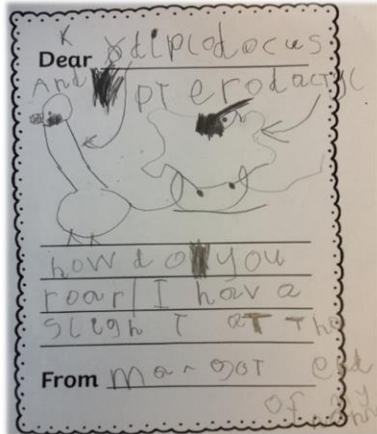
In Maths, we have been learning how to subtract by counting back. We start by putting the amount into our heads and then counting back using our fingers to take away the amount we want. We played lots of games involving dinosaurs eating all their dinner at the 'Dino Diner' to practice our subtraction.

We then moved on to looking at 2D shapes and how, when you split them in two, they can make new shapes- a square can become two rectangles or two triangles for instance. We then explored how we can rotate and put two 2D shapes together to make new shapes - two triangles can make a square or a rectangle. We read the book 'Grandpa's Quilt' by Betsy Franco and made quilts for Dino Gran to keep her warm, using our new understanding of shapes.



Things to try at home

- Kim's Game-** This is a game of memory and subtraction. Put 10 of your child's favourite toys on a tray. Let them study the tray to remember the items for 2 minutes. Then cover the items up. Secretly remove some of the toys. Show the children the tray. How many toys are left? Can they work out how many toys you took? They should use their number bonds to 10 or count back from 10. Can they tell you what items you took away?





Both Wrens and Robins filled their treasure chest with gems! Brilliant job! For their treats, Wrens enjoyed ice pops and a trip to the trim trail. Robins decorated biscuits. Well done to both classes!

