Welcome to a new school year in Swallow Class. We hope that you had a good summer break and are looking forward to the new term ahead.

The children have already been busy exploring our term’s topic, ‘Lord of Earth, Sea and Sky’. This will focus primarily on the science theme of fossils, dinosaurs and evolution. Through our topic, we will be looking at fossils first hand and exploring how they are formed. The children will be given the opportunity to excavate fossils and explore their findings. We also have an exciting visit to The Natural History Museum planned where we will view fossils and dinosaur remains, as well as learn about the amazing journey of evolution. In addition, an archaeologist will be joining us to explain how fossils and historical artefacts are excavated without being damaged.

We will be looking at timelines during the age of the dinosaurs and how they help us develop an understanding of our prehistoric world. We will be learning about famous palaeontologists and scientists in history such as Mary Anning and Charles Darwin. The research we gather on these key figures will be used to produce our very own biographies. The information we gather on fossils and dinosaurs will help us look at the wider world and we will research where in the world dinosaur fossils have been found. Rivers and their flood plains have been key sites where fossils have been found. We will use this link to explore how rivers are formed and gain an understanding of the key vocabulary associated with this.

Apart from key texts linked to our topic, we will also be studying the fabulous science fiction/fantasy text, ‘Under Plum Lake’. This imaginative and inspirational text will create opportunities for the children to produce their own chapters and develop their ability to create atmosphere and tension through their writing.

The unusual and distinctive appearance of dinosaurs will be inspiring some super work in art and design. Following producing a design criteria for a mobile phone case, we will be learning a variety of stitching skills in order to make a dinosaur-themed felt mobile phone case; an ideal gift at Christmas time potentially?!

In addition, we will be learning how to animate a PowerPoint in order to produce a non-fiction presentation reflecting some of our topic learning such as the stages through which a fossil or river are formed.

As we near the end of our topic, we will explore the various theories on dinosaur extinction and debate what we believe happened, all those years ago, to end their mighty reign. We will do this through music where we will produce a sound track for our very own dinosaur movie.

During the first half-term, on Mondays, we will be taking part in cross-country running, building up our stamina and running skills to run long distance. After half-term, we will be learning to play volley ball and the skills needed to play this game successfully. Every Friday, we are again fortunate enough to be able to attend swimming coaching at Ardingly College pool.

Our focus in RE is on the concept of forgiveness. Through considering the views of followers of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, we will establish our own understanding of the value of forgiveness. In PHSE, along with the rest of the school, we will be learning ‘the zones of regulation’ in order to develop a better understanding of how to manage our own emotional health.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of life in Swallows Class, then please talk to us.

Ms Price & Miss Felton