



January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your children all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and were able to relax and enjoy time together. The children have been introduced to our new topic and they were very excited to find dinosaur eggs in the classroom. Hopefully, these will hatch within the next few days.

This term our topic is called 'Fossil Finders'. We will learn about dinosaurs and the different environments in which they lived. We will create models of dinosaurs and their habitats, use non-fiction sources to find out dinosaur facts and sing dinosaur themed songs. We will learn about the lifecycle of a dinosaur and the children will spend a day looking after an egg. They will also carefully excavate dinosaur bones in our role play area. We will learn about famous palaeontologists such as Mary Anning and create our own fossils. Our topic will end with the children displaying their work in a Dinosaur Exhibition to which all Maple Class families are invited.

In Literacy, we will continue with Drawing Club so will focus on a different dinosaur themed book each week. The children will use their own ideas to draw their answer to the daily questions. Guided Reading will continue so that the Reception children can discuss stories together and practice key reading skills.

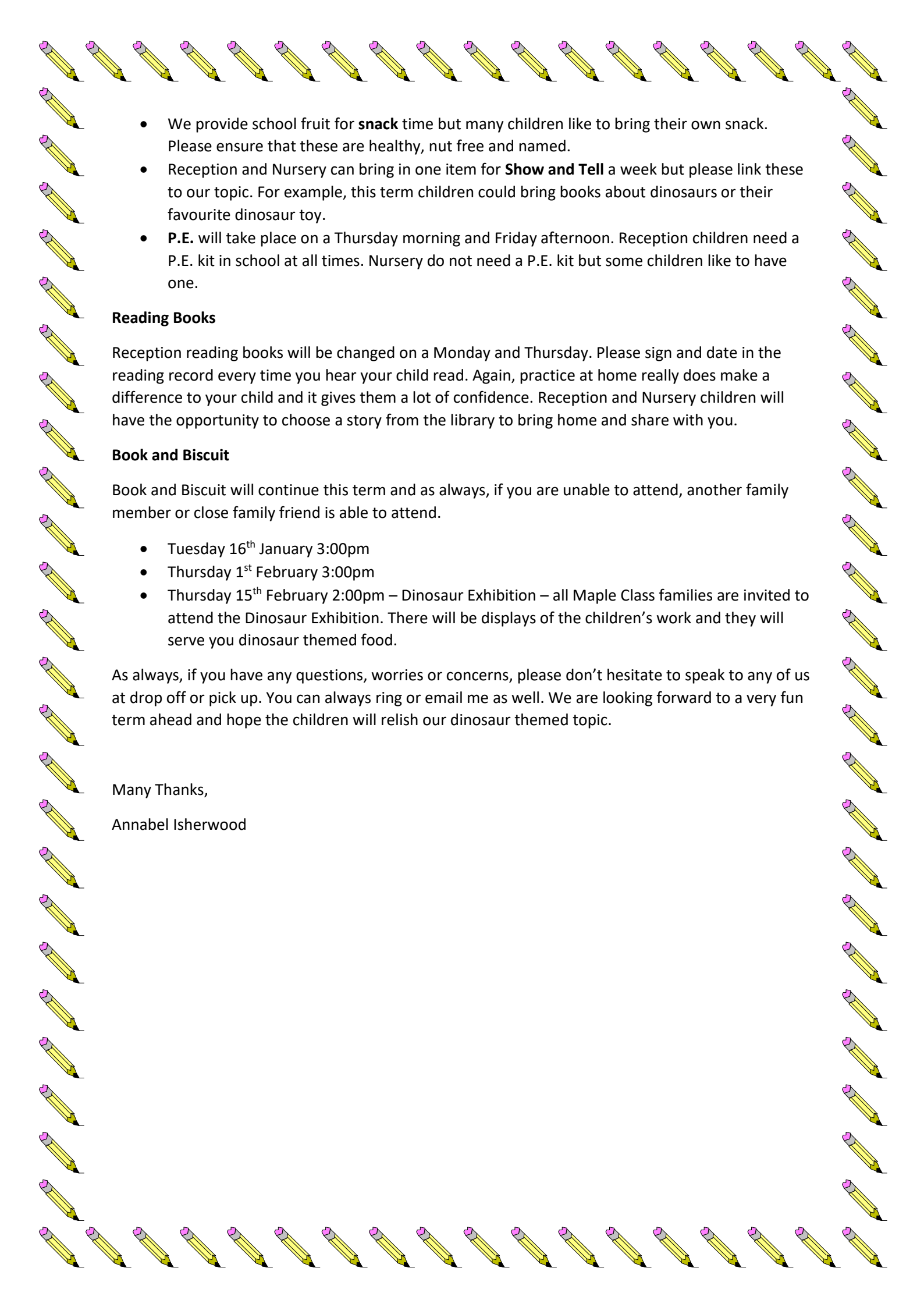
In Phonics, Reception will learn an alternative sound each week, such as y making an ee sound. They will learn many more tricky words so please help your children to learn to read and write these as it really does make a difference. They will also practice their handwriting and have many opportunities to read and write sentences.

Nursery will continue to take part in a daily 'Talking Time' session. There will be many dinosaur themed activities, such as songs, mark making and listening walks. They will share dinosaur themed stories and will practice their listening and speaking skills. If your child has any dinosaur themed stories they would like to share, they are welcome to bring them in.

In Maths, all children will learn about measure by ordering dinosaurs by size and using non-standard units of measurement to measure dinosaurs. They will also measure dinosaur footprints and explore capacity by cleaning dinosaurs. Reception will learn to add and subtract numbers to 10 and to recall number bonds for numbers to 5. They will also learn about odd and even numbers and will practice counting beyond 10. Nursery will be focussing on numbers to 5. They will be counting with 1:1 correspondence, subitising to 5 and ordering numbers. They will also explore the composition of numbers to 5.

Useful Information:

- Muddles has now retired so our new bear **Dennis** will be going home with a child each week. Please complete the book so your child can talk about their time with Dennis. Please email me any photos you would like printing or share them to Tapestry.
- Reception children will have new **tricky words** to learn so please continue to help your child read and write these words. Fun games are a great way to learn these words and anything you do at home really does help your child and give them confidence in the classroom.
- Reception **homework** will be given out on a Friday and is due in the following Thursday. However, if your child is too tired, they do not need to do this.
- All children need a **spare change** of clothes in school as if they have a toileting accident or fall over in the mud, they much prefer to put on their own clothes!
- All children need a **water** bottle in school with their name on.

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- We provide school fruit for **snack** time but many children like to bring their own snack. Please ensure that these are healthy, nut free and named.
 - Reception and Nursery can bring in one item for **Show and Tell** a week but please link these to our topic. For example, this term children could bring books about dinosaurs or their favourite dinosaur toy.
 - **P.E.** will take place on a Thursday morning and Friday afternoon. Reception children need a P.E. kit in school at all times. Nursery do not need a P.E. kit but some children like to have one.

Reading Books

Reception reading books will be changed on a Monday and Thursday. Please sign and date in the reading record every time you hear your child read. Again, practice at home really does make a difference to your child and it gives them a lot of confidence. Reception and Nursery children will have the opportunity to choose a story from the library to bring home and share with you.

Book and Biscuit

Book and Biscuit will continue this term and as always, if you are unable to attend, another family member or close family friend is able to attend.

- Tuesday 16th January 3:00pm
- Thursday 1st February 3:00pm
- Thursday 15th February 2:00pm – Dinosaur Exhibition – all Maple Class families are invited to attend the Dinosaur Exhibition. There will be displays of the children’s work and they will serve you dinosaur themed food.

As always, if you have any questions, worries or concerns, please don’t hesitate to speak to any of us at drop off or pick up. You can always ring or email me as well. We are looking forward to a very fun term ahead and hope the children will relish our dinosaur themed topic.

Many Thanks,

Annabel Isherwood