

Friday 9th February 2018

This week we have found out about the coastguard. Neil and John kindly came in to talk to us about the work of the coastguard volunteers and how we can keep ourselves safe; living on the coast. We tried on hard hats, harnesses, life vests and even watched Miss Gauntlett get carried off on a stretcher! We all enjoyed sitting in the coastguard truck, talking on the tannoy and observing the lights and sirens in action.



In phonics we have linked sounds to the letters **ear** (n-ear) **air** (ch-air) **ure** (p-ure). It is important that your child understands these trigraphs are three letters that make one sound and that **air** is said clearly, so that your child does not confuse it with **e** and that **ear** does not sound like **i**. We have introduced joining these letters as this makes them easier to remember and prepares your child for joining their writing in year 1. Please do not worry if your child hears these sounds in words that are spelt differently e.g. air - hair, share, wear. It is the sound that is important and it is age appropriate for your child to spell these words using the three letters 'air' shair/wair.

During maths, we have explored length, using the correct words **long longer longest short shorter shortest** to talk about how long things are. We have ordered objects by their length; taking care to line them up, so we can compare fairly. We have even investigated different ways of measuring how long, using resources such as cubes, lego bricks, cars etc. We have also introduced counting things in twos.

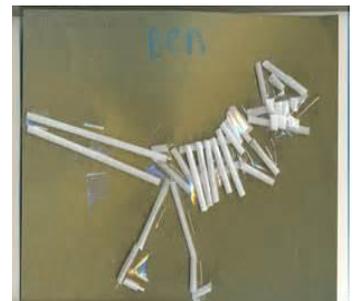
The children have already suggested some ideas for our new topic "Dinosaurs." Please add any further ideas about what your child would like to do, make or find out about and return the brainstorm on Monday 19th February, so we can personalise your child's learning.

Home Learning challenge

To copy the letters **ear air** and **ure** and have a go at writing these independently. Please continue to encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly as they do so.

Have fun over the weekend giving your child opportunities to use the words **longer, shorter, longest, shortest** to describe the height of everyday objects.

In preparation for our new topic, we are asking you to take on a family challenge of creating something for our dinosaur display. This could be a junk model dinosaur that you construct, dinosaur footprints made with salt dough or a fossil you may have found on the beach on a fossil hunt. Be creative, the choice is yours!



We hope you all have a wonderful half term holiday and look forward to seeing you, and your awesome dinosaur creations, on Monday 19th February.

The EYFS Ducklings' team ☺