

Foxes Parent Topic Leaflet - Spring 1
Rocks, Relics and Rumbles!

This term, we will be putting our palaeontologist hats on and researching amazing rocks and fossils and where they can be found in our local landscapes. We will be learning about how fossils are formed and the palaeontologists who helped make these discoveries. Mary Anning was one of the greatest fossil hunters in history - right here in Dorset!



Find out how Mary's life changed when she found an enormous fossil on her local beach, and how her discoveries transformed the way we think about life on Earth.

English	<p>Fiction: <i>The Iron Man</i> by Ted Hughes Writing: Adventure/dilemma narrative inspired by Iron Man</p> <p>Non-fiction: <i>Pebble in My Pocket</i> by Meredith Hooper Writing: Pebble poem <i>Daily spellings and weekly dictation to show application of the learnt spellings.</i></p>
Class reader	We will focus on the English stories this half term within our class reading sessions.
Geography	We will be learning about ' What makes Dorset so special? '. We will use maps to identify towns, villages and counties in our surrounding areas. Additionally, we will discuss why trading is important and our local trade routes.
History	We will be learning about Mary Anning , who was an English palaeontologist. Her findings contributed to changes in scientific thinking about prehistoric life and the history of the Earth.
Art	We will be looking at and creating Fossil drawings inspired by the artist Edward Lear . We will experiment Sketching with very light pressure using a pencil and vary the pressure applied to a pencil to create different tones. Also, we will learn techniques for adding texture e.g. hatching, cross hatching.
DT	<i>Next half term</i>
Music	In Music, we will be listening, singing and composing music. We will identify structural elements, repeating rhythms/melody and changing mood, and compose an accompaniment for a song using untuned percussion. Also, we will use dot notation to show higher or lower pitch and introduce and understand the

['Live a life of love just as Jesus loved us', Ephesians 5 verse 2.](#)

	difference between crotchets and paired quavers.
Maths	<p>Y3: Calculations: Further Multiplication and Division Fractions, Decimals and Percentages: Fractions Measurement: Length and Perimeter of Figures</p> <p>Y4: Number: Further Multiplication & Division Fractions, Decimals and Percentages: Fractions and Decimals Measurement: Length, Perimeter of Figures, Area</p>
Science	<p>We will be learning about Rocks, Fossils & Soils. We will be putting rocks into groups eg colour, crumbly, hard, grainy, have crystals, have fossils in them. We will learn that fossils are formed when something dies and is buried in rock and know that soil is a mixture of crumbled rock and dead plants and animals. Also, we will be thinking scientifically by asking questions directly related to their science knowledge and make predictions based on scientific knowledge.</p>
Computing	<p>We will be looking at Programming and sequencing. We will be able to identify that a program includes sequences of commands, combine and order commands in a program and explain that programs start because of an input. Also, we will identify that a program includes sequences of commands and build a sequence of commands.</p>
PE/Games Tuesdays and Thursdays	<p>We will be doing Gymnastics and Tag rugby.</p> <p>In Gymnastics, We will choose actions that flow well into one another both on and off apparatus, demonstrate some strength and control when taking weight on different body parts for longer periods of time. Also we will use body tension to perform balances.</p> <p>In Tag rugby, we will practice catching a ball passed to them using two hands and use a variety of throwing techniques with success in game situations. We will use space in small game situations to help score goals or limit others' scoring and use simple tactics individually and within a team to score or gain possession.</p>
RE	<p>We will be learning about Judaism and exploring the question 'What symbols and stories help Jewish people remember their covenant with God?' We will learn about how keeping a covenant with God is the basis for Jewish living and exploring the festival of Passover.</p>
French	<p>We will be learning names of colours and learning to express our likes and dislikes. We will describe objects, we will listen and repeat words using correct pronunciation.</p>
PSHCE	<p>We will be learning 'Too Much Selfie Isn't Healthy!' We will be talking about exploring the importance of others and learning to love them well.</p>
Value focus	<p>Stories about Jesus to explore our school values: Love, courage, inspiration and respect.</p>
Trips/events	<p>Trip to The Etches Collection (fossil museum) - date 15th January 2023</p>

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LOVE COURAGE BRITISH VALUES INSPIRATION

Must-do activities at home:

Must Dos: Reading 3 times a week/ times tables practice - Y4: focus on x6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 and Y3: focus on x3,4 and 8/ weekly spellings.

Optional extras at home:

- Take a trip to your local library - what can you find out about Dorset, Mary Anning, rocks or fossils from the books in the library?
- Try fossil hunting! You could visit Kimmeridge, Lyme Regis or Charmouth perhaps.
- Visit some villages and towns in our beautiful county of Dorset
<https://www.visit-dorset.com/explore/areas-to-visit/>
- Find out about rocks, fossils and soils: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z9bbkqt> or do some research about Mary Anning
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zd8fv9q/articles/zf6vb82>
- Practise drawing fossils: <https://artprojectsforkids.org/how-to-draw-a-fossil/>
- At home, keep talking about Too Much Selfie Isn't Healthy! and using Courage.

Key vocabulary:

palaeontologist	Palaeontologists study the history of life on Earth through fossils.
fossil	Fossils are imprints of long dead plants and animals found in rocks.
rock	Rock, or stone, is a hard material made up of one or more minerals. Rock makes up the outer layer of Earth, called the crust. The tiniest bits of rock make up sand and soil .
soil	Soil is a mixture of tiny particles of rock, dead plants and animals, air and water.
trade	Trade is buying and selling good
rural	Rural areas are areas which are not towns or cities. They are often farming areas.
urban	An urban area is an area where many people live and work close together.
county	A county is a group of towns and the country that surrounds them.
economic activity	Economic activity covers the ways a region makes money
<p>Days of the week in French: Lundi, mardi, mercredi, jeudi, vendredi, samedi, dimanche</p>	

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