



Three Legged Cross First and Nursery School

Also at: www.3lxschool.com

Nursery Key Learning

Summer
2026

Summer 1 topic learning: *Dangerous Dinosaurs*

This half term, our learning will be centred around the exciting theme “Dangerous Dinosaurs”. Through stories, play and hands-on experiences, children will explore dinosaurs, fossils and the prehistoric world.

Personal, social, and emotional development



We will be supporting children to feel safe, confident and ready to learn. Our younger children will begin to learn how to take turns, play alongside others and express their needs with adult support. They will be encouraged to explore their environment and begin to understand simple routines. Our older children will continue to build friendships, show increasing independence and develop confidence when talking to adults and peers. They will also learn strategies to manage their feelings, such as stopping and taking deep breaths. Across Nursery, we will explore kindness, celebrating differences and what it means to be a good friend

Physical development

Children will take part in a wide range of activities to develop their physical skills. Our 2-year-olds will explore movement through climbing, crawling, balancing and fitting into spaces such as tunnels and dens. They will also begin to use mark-making tools such as paintbrushes and chunky pencils. Our 3–4-year-olds will develop greater control and coordination through activities such as hopping, balancing on one leg and using a comfortable grip when holding pencils. Fine motor skills will continue to develop through drawing, painting and using tools with increasing accuracy.

Communication and language

Communication is at the heart of our Nursery. Our younger children will be supported to listen to stories, join in with familiar words and begin to use key vocabulary linked to our dinosaur theme, such as *dinosaur*, *tail* and *claws*. Our older children will develop their language by answering questions, retelling stories and learning new vocabulary such as *carnivore*, *herbivore*, *fossil* and *extinct*. They will be encouraged to talk about what they notice, share ideas and take part in conversations. We will also explore sounds, rhymes and patterns in words to support early speaking and listening skills.

Maths

In maths, children will learn through practical, hands-on activities. Our 2-year-olds will begin to explore comparing amounts using language such as more, same and lots. They will start to notice simple patterns. Our 3–4-year-olds will develop their understanding of number by counting, recognising small quantities and exploring patterns in more detail. They will build early mathematical understanding by beginning to sort, compare and organise objects.

Literacy

Children will enjoy a range of dinosaur-themed stories, including *Bumpus Jumpus Dinosaurumpus*, *Dinosaur Roar!* and *Cave Baby*. Our younger children will explore books through pictures, joining in with repeated phrases and enjoying rhymes and songs. They will begin to make marks and give meaning to their drawings. Our older children will begin to retell familiar stories, recognise sounds in words and develop early writing skills, including writing initial sounds and practising letter formation.



Phonics

We follow Unlocking Letters and Sounds (ULS) and this term children will continue to focus on Phase 1 phonics, which builds the foundations for reading and writing. This includes:

- Listening and attention skills
- Environmental and instrumental sounds
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Oral blending (hearing sounds and putting them together to make words)

Understanding the World

Children will explore the prehistoric world and begin to understand that dinosaurs lived a long time ago and are now extinct. Our 2-year-olds will explore through sensory play, observing natural materials and engaging with dinosaur-themed environments. Our 3–4-year-olds will begin to learn about fossils and bones, talk about dinosaurs and explore how we know about the past. They will also use simple technology, such as iPads, to explore games and images linked to our topic. Children will also take part in activities such as planting and observing growth, helping them to notice changes over time.



Expressive Arts and Design

Creativity will be a big part of our learning. Our younger children will explore a range of materials, textures and patterns through painting, collage and sensory play. They will enjoy songs and action rhymes such as *There's a Dinosaur* and *Five Little Monkeys*. Our older children will create more detailed artwork, such as dinosaur models and paintings, and explore joining materials and building their own creations. They will also take part in music and movement activities, developing rhythm, coordination and confidence.

Summer 2 topic learning: *How Many Pebbles on a Beach?*

This half term, our learning will be based around the seaside theme “How Many Pebbles on a Beach?” Through stories, songs, sensory play and practical activities, children will explore the beach, sea life, holidays, shells, sand and waves.

Personal, social, and emotional development

This half term, we will continue to support children in building confidence, managing feelings and developing positive relationships. Our 2-year-olds will be encouraged to play alongside others, begin to form friendships and feel secure within familiar routines. They will be supported to explore sharing, turn taking and expressing their needs with adult help. Our 3–4-year-olds will continue to develop confidence in new routines and become more independent in everyday tasks such as toileting and lunchtime routines. We will be working on school readiness for those moving up to reception in September. Through stories and discussion the children will think about the feelings of others and begin to talk about their own feelings in more detail.

Physical development



Children will take part in a wide range of activities to strengthen both their gross and fine motor skills. Our 2-year-olds will enjoy kicking, throwing and catching balls. They will be developing hand strength and coordination through threading, scooping, playdough and other sensory activities. Our 3–4-year-olds will build coordination and control by working together to carry larger items, practising using a dominant hand and developing more precise movements through activities such as using chalk, printing, pouring, stacking and playdough work.

Communication and language

Communication and language will remain at the heart of our learning. Our 2-year-olds will be supported to listen to stories, join in with familiar words and begin using simple vocabulary linked to the theme, such as sand, sea, fish, sun and beach. They will also enjoy songs, role play and conversations linked to the seaside. Our 3–4-year-olds will extend their vocabulary further with words such as pebbles, shells, waves, lifeguard, whistles and floats. They will answer questions about stories, retell familiar texts and engage in role play such as boat and

beach play. We will also encourage children to talk about the past and present, describe what they notice and share their ideas more confidently.

Maths

In maths, children will learn through practical, hands-on experiences. Our 2-year-olds will practise reciting numbers to 4 and noticing simple patterns in the environment and in their play. Our 3–4-year-olds will develop their number understanding through comparing quantities, counting with 1:1 correspondence, exploring number bonds to 5 and beginning to match numerals to quantities. They will also explore repeating patterns, subitising and early shape work, with opportunities to revisit and consolidate key skills across the term.

Literacy

This half term, children will enjoy a range of seaside and story-themed books including; Commotion in the Ocean, The Ugly Duckling, What the Ladybird Heard at the Seaside, Sharing a Shell and Someone Swallowed Stanley. Our 2-year-olds will enjoy looking at books, asking questions, commenting on pictures and noticing print in the environment, including the first letter in their name. They will also explore mark making and begin to give meaning to the marks they make. Our 3–4-year-olds will develop book awareness, including understanding that in English we read from left to right and top to bottom. They will continue practising writing the first letters of their name and making marks for a purpose.

Understanding the world

Children will explore the natural world and their place within it through a seaside focus. Our 2-year-olds will explore natural materials such as sand and shells and begin to notice what happens when they interact with everyday objects. They will enjoy sensory play and simple cause-and-effect experiences. Our 3–4-year-olds will explore floating and sinking, magnets and other simple forces. They will look at seaside holidays in the past and present, noticing similarities and differences. They begin to talk about how people affect the environment. As the term goes on, children will also begin to talk about transition, including the school they will be moving on to. Opportunities for reflection and short prayers will also be part of our daily routine.

Expressive arts and design

This half term, children will have lots of opportunities to express themselves through music, movement, art and design. Our 2-year-olds will enjoy action songs such as 5 Little Ducks, Row, Row, Row Your Boat, Let's All Go to the Beach and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive. They will explore mark making, rubbings and simple creative experiences using different textures and materials. Our 3–4-year-olds will sing the same familiar songs and also experiment with a wider range of creative techniques, including painting, collage, chalking, junk modelling and large construction. They will explore artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, use musical instruments to express feelings and ideas, and take part in practical design activities such as making smoothies and building models.



Contact

Don't forget, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Lorna at lorna@3lxschool.com

Don't forget to follow your child's learning on Tapestry using your login or contact us if you need help to do this.



Please continue to report nursery absences by telephoning the school office on 01202 822460 or via email on office@3lxschool.com

[Paper copies of newsletters are available if requested via the office.](#)



The Heath Academy Trust *inspire transform together*
Registration Number 09809895