

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 Daily spellings and weekly dictation to show application of the learnt spellings.</p>
Spellings	<p>Words where the digraph 'ey' makes an /ai/ sound, Words with the suffix '-ly', Words that are homophones, Spring 1 Common Exception words, Words ending in 'al' and Words ending in 'le'.</p>
Geography	<p>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.</p>
History	<p>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.</p>
Art	<p>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.</p>
DT	<p><i>Next half term</i></p>
Music	<p>Samba with the Dorset Music Service (Thursday morning)</p>
Maths	<p>Y3: Calculations: Further Multiplication and Division Fractions, Decimals and Percentages: Fractions</p>

'Live a life of love just as Jesus loved us', Ephesians 5 verse 2.

	<p>Measurement: Length and Perimeter of Figures 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, <i>crumbly, hard, grainy</i>, have <i>crystals</i>, have <i>fossils</i> 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 Dance and Tag rugby. In Dance, we will be using changes of direction, speed and levels, copy, remember and perform a dance phrase and use counts to keep in time with a partner and group. 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>Courage</p>
Trips/events	<p>Trip to The Etches Collection (fossil museum) TBC 2nd February 2026</p>

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LOVE COURAGE 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:

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

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