



ST. DUNSTAN'S

Year 2 Rationale

Autumn 2nd Half Term

Footprints from the past



For the second half of the autumn term, our topic will be history based. We will be learning about the lives of two significant palaeontologists – Mary Anning and Jack Horner. To launch into the topic the children will be excavating their own fossil and begin to appreciate the excitement and hard work of palaeontology. The learners will delve further into what life was like for Mary Anning in the early nineteenth century. We will begin to understand how difficult it was for her; although she had talent, she could not afford an education. One of the key historical skills that we will focus on is chronology and ordering of events. This will enable us to create our own timeline of Mary Anning's life. The children will be able to make comparisons with a current palaeontologist, Jack Horner. We will look deeper into how Jack Horner's discoveries were immediately recognised and Mary Anning's were not, in her life-time. This is because her lack of formal education and poor family background meant she did not receive the recognition and acknowledgement that she deserved. Mary Anning is a person of great interest due to leading the way for women to receive recognition for their great accomplishments.

In English, we will be reading *Stone Girl Bone Girl* by Laurence Anholt and *Dinosaur Diary* by Julia Donaldson. Using extracts from the 'Dinosaur Diary' book, we will develop strategies for retrieving information and answering questions with simple comprehension activities. In these books, we will learn both fiction and non-fiction aspects of our topic. We will also create a fact-file about the life of Mary Anning.