



**ST. DUNSTAN'S**

**Year 2 Rationale**

**Autumn 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 recognised in her life-time.

In English, we will be continuing our learning of Roald Dahl's fantastic book: *The Twits*. The children will be given the opportunity to write a character description on Mr Twit including exciting adjectives and conjunctions. Following on from this 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 create fact-file about the life of Mary Anning.

In Maths, we will concentrate on addition and subtraction, both mental and written methods. The children will also have the opportunity to explore 2D and 3D shapes. Sorting shapes into groups and recognising faces, vertices and edges.