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Tuesday 14th February 2017

Dear parents/ Carers

Re: **Educational visit to The Natural History Museum:**

On Wednesday 01st March 2017 a select group of children will have the opportunity to participate in an educational trip to The Natural History Museum.

As you are all probably aware, this month's theme is centered around Dinosaurs and the Natural World. The children have been doing a number of different activities around the theme. To extend their learning we have organised a trip to The Natural History Museum.

There is a wide range of unmissable things to see and do at The Natural History Museum.

Dinosaurs

The first dinosaurs appeared about 230 million years ago and for the next 160 million years the Earth belonged to these ancient reptiles. Our children will discover how these gentle plodding giants and fierce, bloodthirsty hunters lived, ate, and if they really died out 65 million years ago.

Dr Paul Barrett, the Natural History Museum's dinosaur researcher, has examined the evidence for how 5 of the most popular dinosaurs lived.

Dinosaurs in 3D



Our children will get to visit the Dinosaurs in the 3D exhibit, where they will get a sense of what a living, moving dinosaur would look like from every angle with these 3D images. These images and animatronics are the result of some clever detective work. Scientists examine dinosaur bones for clues about how they looked when they were alive. They can tell how dinosaurs moved, if they walked on their back legs or on all fours, and even what they ate.

Below are just some of the exhibits the children will be able to see;

Dr Paul Barrett, Natural History Museum dinosaur researcher, has examined the evidence for how 5 of the most popular dinosaurs lived.

[Stegosaurus](#)



This slow-moving plant-eater used spikes on its tail to fend off would-be predators. The jury is still out on what the spiny plates on its back were used for.

[Tyrannosaurus](#)



An infamous meat-eating predator. Look at the evidence as to whether *Tyrannosaurus* hunted in packs or alone.

[Coelophysis](#)



This small meat-eater was one of the earliest dinosaurs. It was fast and agile and would have fed on animals like small reptiles and insects.

[Triceratops](#)



Triceratops was a plant-eater with specialised teeth for cutting and slicing and a huge stomach for digesting tough plant matter. It would have used its horns for defending itself from predators like *Tyrannosaurus*.

The Natural History schools educational programme offers inspirational activities for all ages and abilities. It taps into their collection of more than 70 million treasures from the natural world and is supported by world-class scientific expertise.

They have enjoyable and interactive workshops, they use puppets and storytelling to explore natural history and curriculum science in a fun and engaging way

Activities by Key Stage

We are able to choose learning activities at the Museum that are appropriate for our children's educational level.

School activities in the Darwin Centre

We will be able to browse the learning activities on offer in the new Darwin Centre, the Museum's state-of-the-art scientific research and collections facility.

Gallery characters

We will also meet one of museum's fun and intriguing characters in the galleries.

Self-led activities

We will also be able to explore the Museum with our self-led activities.

Science shows

We will also have the opportunity to enjoy fun and educational science shows.

Hands-on workshops

We will also be able to get to grips with how science works in workshops led by a member of the museum's team of dedicated science educators.

Storytelling with Puppets

And last but not least, our children will be able to enjoy interactive storytelling that explores natural history and curriculum science in a fun and engaging way.

Our group will be allocated a slot in our visit timetable to enjoy all of these areas.

The children are going to have a great Time!!!!

Parents of the children selected will be notified in due course. Selection is based upon our assessment of a child's stage of development and their ability to gain positively from the experience.

With kind regards

Donna and Samantha