

# Dinosaurs

## Key Vocabulary and Definitions

**Extinction** – When a species of animals or plants die out or disappear completely.

**Fossil** – The remains or print of a plant or animal embedded or preserved in rock.

**Palaeontologist** – A scientist who studies fossils.

**Herbivore** – An animal that feeds on plants

**Carnivore** – An animal that feeds on meat.

**Mammal** – An animal that has warm blood passing around its body. The females produce milk for their young.

**Reptile** – An animal that is cold blooded and lays eggs. Their bodies are covered in scales.

**Meteor** – A piece of rock or matter from space that produces light as it travels.

**Jungle** – An area of land where many trees and plants grow closely together.

**Lava** – Extremely hot rock that pours out of the ground.

**Volcano** – A mountain or hill with a crack where lava and gases can escape.

**Fern** – A plant that does not have flowers. It has leaves that look like feathers.

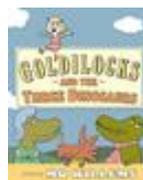
## Focus Texts\*



**If I had a Dinosaur** - We have chosen this text to support children's speaking and listening skills as they start school through oral discussion about their favourite dinosaur and if it would make a good pet. This will be compared to their own pets and how they are different to dinosaurs.



**Dinosaur Roar** - The focus of this text is opposites and descriptions. We will be discussing the different features of the dinosaur characters in the book alongside exploring opposites in our everyday world. We will also be developing the story in our PE through moving like the different characters and using instruments to match the movements.



**Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs** - This text has been chosen to focus on characters and how they can be changed to make a different story. We will be comparing it to the traditional tale and making up our own through Helicopter Stories using different types of characters in role as the dinosaurs.

## Big ideas we want to explore .....

**Animals can become extinct** - For this theme we will be discussing the phrase 'endangered' and what this means. We will be looking at animals which are endangered currently and how we can protect these animals from extinction. This will support the children's development as responsible citizens.

**Why do dinosaurs look different, even though they are all dinosaurs?** - To support the children's understanding of this we will be comparing different dinosaurs and looking at what they have in common and what they have that is different, including their diets. We will also compare them to animals that are alive now and how animals evolve (change) over time to survive.

**How do we know about dinosaurs if they lived before humans?** - We will be examining and making our own fossils to enable children to see how traces can be left behind. During our outdoor learning time we will look at footprints different animals make and compare these to the prints dinosaurs have left.

**What happened to the dinosaurs?** - We will be discussing with the children the different theories about what happened to the dinosaurs. We will explain that because there were no humans alive then nobody can be certain about what happened but the scientists think something happened to make them all extinct.

- The children's knowledge will be further developed through a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts to support these.