West Jesmond Family Dippy School Homework – May Challenge!

"It's all about ME! How do you know anything about dinosaurs when we lived such a long time ago?"

Dinosaurs

The Natural History Museum have produced some great resources for Dippy on Tour—have a look at: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/dippy-on-tour/dippy-learning-resources.html . You could visit Dippy at the Great North Museum!

Dinosaur Poo!
Investigate different kinds of modern poo to find out about the different excreta of carnivores, herbivores, land animals, fish etc. Obviously you aren't going to want to pick up poo in the street, but the Wildlife Trusts have a great ID resource that makes the link between what an animal eats and its poo: https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/how-identify/identify-poo and you could go for a poo walk to see what you can find!
Try making your own dinosaur poo! Either make a set yourself and to dissect them and work out the diet. Think about what the dinosaur might have eaten and include bits of an appropriate size and texture. What should go in? The Young Archaeologists Club have a basic recipe for human poo which you can make appropriate to the diets of different eras: https://www.yac-uk.org/activity/make-and-excavate-archaeological-poo and you can adapt an animal poo recipe from here: https://naturalsciences.org/docs/special-exhibits/AnimalScat.pdf

Dinosaur Diets
Dinosaurs are great if you want to look at carnivores, herbivores and omnivores or look at teeth and compare dinosaur teeth to us and other species. Information on dinosaur teeth fossils and the clues they provide can be found here:
https://www.fossilera.com/pages/dinosaur-teeth or https://www.faceliftdentistry.com/bite-correction/a-learn-about-dinosaur-teeth.html

Fossil fun
Fossils tell us about what dinosaurs were like from their remains. To begin learning about fossils, you could create a palaeontologists dig kit: http://parentingchaos.com/make-your-own-dinosaur-fossil-dig-kit/
After learning about how fossils are made, such as at https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/z2ym2p3 , you can make your own fossils, using seeds, shells, pasta shapes etc to imprint in air drying clay. For younger children, you can make dough fossils:
https://www.makelifelovely.com/diy-dinosaur-fossils-with-salt-dough/
 For older children, there is a good resource explaining fossil tracks and you can play guess the fossil tracks:
https://ucmp.berkeley.edu/science/trackways/trackways5.php . You could make your own fossil tracks biscuits:
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/dinosaur-footprint-cookies-recipe.html You can download templates for some excellent models and hand puppets from the British Geological Survey at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/time/puppets/home.html

Palaeo-art
You can find a downloadable resource to create palaeoart around Dippy at: http://www.nhm.ac.uk/content/dam/nhmwww/take-part/dippy-on-tour/resources/dinosaurs-and-birds-learning-resource-dinosaur-habitats.pdf and there is also information at https://jurassiccoast.org/a-history-of-dippy/ On the following pages, you will find:
- A description of the habitat that Dippy lived in—the Morrison formation. Use this information as the basis of your artwork
- A Dippy skeleton. Use this as the base to draw the living animal around the bones. Think about what colour and texture it should be—you can use the habitat information and what you know about modern animals to help
- You can find a Dippy outline in the NHM resource above for younger children or those who may find creating their outline using the skeleton a bit too challenging

As a family go out and investigate one, some or all of these things. It's is up to you how you want to record this: pictures, photos, send comments to our Facebook and Twitter threads or come in to talk about it in class.
Please complete by Mon 3rd June and be prepared to share what you have done in class.