

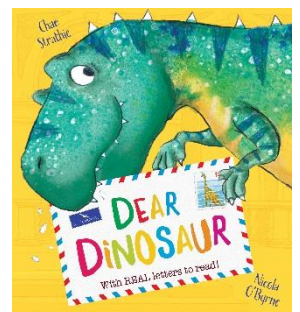


## *Dear Dinosaur*

written by Chae Strathie,  
Illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne

### 1 – Introducing the book

- Before reading, ask children if they can name any dinosaurs. Do they know any dinosaur facts? Have a look at the picture of the dinosaurs in the museum at the start of the story. Do you recognise any of them? Look closely at and describe their features, for example horns, long necks, small arms, big scales, powerful tails.
- Max likes the Tyrannosaurus-Rex best. Why do you think that is? Dinosaur Dora suggests to Max that he write a letter to T-Rex with all of his questions. Which dinosaur would you write to? What would you say? What questions would you ask? Make a list of these.
- As you go through the book, draw children's attention to the different types of correspondence between Max and the T-Rex: letters, birthday card, postcard, email. Talk about how you address a letter and compare this to an email. Which would get there first? Why? Show children the dinosaur's seal on his letter, and talk about how and why seals were used in the past. Children could make their own seals from plasticine.





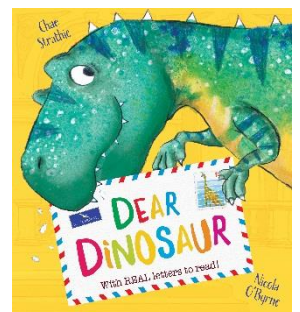
## ***Dear Dinosaur***

written by Chae Strathie,

Illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne

### 2 – Dinosaur literacy

- Set up a temporary email account for Dinosaur Dora, and using the questions that children originally came up with, write her an email from the class. Older children in the school could be asked to find out the answers, so that 'Dinosaur Dora' can email back.
- Provide a 'top trumps' –style writing frame for children to then draw their chosen dinosaur and record a favourite dinosaur fact. These websites are good sources of information:
  - ❖ [www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/dinosaur-facts](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/dinosaur-facts)
  - ❖ [www.kids-dinosaurs.com/dinosaur-facts.html](http://www.kids-dinosaurs.com/dinosaur-facts.html)
- When Max is on holiday, he goes for a fossil hunt on the beach. Make some laminated 'dinosaur bones' with focus phonemes on, and bury them in a sand pit. Give children the opportunity to dig up the fossils. Can they arrange the sounds to make different words?



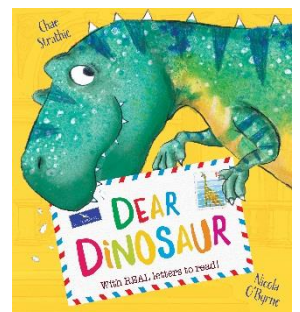


## *Dear Dinosaur*

written by Chae Strathie,  
Illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne

3 – Dinosaurs everywhere

- When Max sends his tooth to the museum, T-Rex tells him that he's now part of a dinosaur, and calls him Maxosaurus Rex. Show children the dedications on the title page, where one of them says 'for my favourite dinosaurs, Strawberatops, Emmadactyl, Paulinasaurus and Chaelodon'. Invite children to talk together to come up with their own dinosaur names.
- Provide a range of coloured poster paints and invite children to choose a colour and do a handprint on a piece of paper. Turn it upside down, so the fingers become the dinosaur's legs and tail. Using a paintbrush, demonstrate how to add a long neck, head and/or spikes along the dinosaur's back. Once the first colour has dried, children can use the tip of a finger in a contrasting colour paint to dab scales onto the dinosaur, or use a natural sponge for a mottled effect. Finally, fix on a googly eye. Ask children to write their dinosaur name underneath, remembering a capital letter at the start.



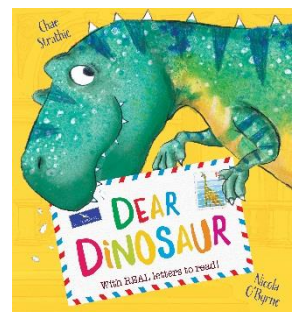


## *Dear Dinosaur*

written by Chae Strathie,  
Illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne

3 – Dinosaurs everywhere

- In the story, Max invents a 'Sausagesaurus' dinosaur. Look closely at his drawing. Provide a range of fruit and vegetable halves that are interesting shapes (e.g. pepper, pear, broccoli, carrot, apple, grape) and support children to do some printing of the shapes onto paper. Once the paint has dried, they can use felt pens to add dinosaur features, bring the Pearodactyl or Potatosaurus to life.
- Provide children with a range of different 2-D shapes, and ask them to arrange them to create a Shapeosaurus dinosaur, as an opportunity to explore the features of these shapes. How many different shapes have you used for your dinosaur? How many squares are there? How many triangles? Have you used any shapes with curved sides?





## ***Dear Dinosaur***

written by Chae Strathie,  
Illustrated by Nicola O'Byrne

### 4 – Be a dinosaur

- In one of his letters to Max, the T-Rex boasts that he would probably win all the races at sports day. Set up some 'Dinosaur races' which might involve running on four legs, jumping, swooping or wading through a swamp. Alternatively, use dinosaur activities as a P.E. warm up. Fix a picture of a dinosaur to each of the faces on a large dice. Underneath each picture, write a dinosaur action (jump, swoop, run, stomp, swing your tail etc). Children take turns to roll the dice, and then everyone has to join in with the corresponding action.
- In the story, T-Rex tells Max that he is longer than a bus, has a head the size of a sofa and teeth as long as a ruler. Work out how long these distances are, and draw out a T-Rex outline in chalk on the playground, so children get a sense of the sheer size of this dinosaur. How many children would fit along the length of a T-Rex? Make a prediction, and then ask children to lie along the length of the outline and see if you were correct.

