



Downside Primary School

Chaul End Lane, Luton,
Bedfordshire LU4 8EZ

T: 01582 587160

E: dpsadmin@lbc.luton.sch.uk

W: downside-primary.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 2 children,

Welcome back to this last term of Year 2. During this part of the year, we will provide exciting opportunities for the children to continue to learn through a range of topics and activities. Our current topic is Rainforests followed, after the half term break, by Oceans and Seas. Throughout these units, classes will be comparing environments, plants and animals with those found in the local area and they will be thinking about the ways in which they can care for the world in which we live. Our history topic continues the theme of famous people, including great sea explorers! Related art and DT projects will include rainforest collages and 3D models. In ICT, children will become zoologists! In music this term, children will be learning about timbre (how to recognise, describe and play different sounds) and in Summer 2, they will be looking at composing and performing skills. In P.E, during the first half term, children will learn how to play golf and take part in various athletics events and in the second half term they will learn how to play badminton and cricket.

Literacy

The main focus of this term will be to improve the accuracy and quality of sentence writing through story and information units. Regular sessions of guided and individual reading will continue, concentrating on fluency and comprehension, but also promoting an enjoyment of reading, thereby providing the children with key skills for the future. Support from home through reading and homework will provide opportunities for you to help your child understand what they are reading and practise their writing and presentation skills.

Numeracy

In maths the children will be applying their learning in mental calculation through real life problems, such as money or measurement. There is a strong focus on the children being able to explain how they have solved a problem and also to begin to choose the most appropriate and efficient method. In preparation for Key Stage Two there will be higher expectations that the children will be able to recall their doubles, number bonds to 20 and 2x, 3x, 5x and 10x tables. Please provide regular opportunities for them to practise these and to show you that they know them off by heart by answering quick-fire questions or carrying out short tests.



Homework

Thank you to all the children who completed amazing homework last term. This half term, we will be sending home maths and reading revision material. Spellings and regular home reading will also be expected to be completed. The new Homework Menu will not go out until the end of this half term. We will not be sending home a book study this term but hope you found last term's study valuable, we certainly did. Try to use similar types of questioning (as seen on the worksheets) when hearing your child read.

SATs

Finally, most of you will know that the children will be taking some tests this term which will inform the teacher assessments for the end of Year 2. These are kept as low-key as possible and no child will be expected to continue in a test if they are struggling. You can help your child by continuing to support them in their reading, spelling and mental arithmetic skills and by ensuring that they are in school every day.

I hope this information will help you to provide support for your child at home. If there are any problems, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Ali
Year 2 Leader