

## Downside Primary School

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**Headteacher:** Miss Karen Hooker

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Dear Parents and carers of year R children,

I hope you all had a good break. This term we are very excited about our trips to Wendover Woods and Whipsnade Zoo where the children will see some of the animals linked to our Harry topic.

This term is always a busy one as the teachers need to complete their final assessments of the children. To help us with these, please continue to support your child at home and let us know the new things you have seen your child do. The final assessments will be shared with you at the end of the year.

### Information for this term

#### **PE reminder:**

- **Coral** – Wednesday and Friday
- **Crystal** – Tuesday and Thursday
- **Emerald** – Wednesday and Friday
- **Opal** – Tuesday and Thursday
- **Ruby** – Monday and Wednesday

Please remember to remove all jewellery etc on the days your child has PE. This term most of our PE lessons will be outside so please provide trainers for outdoor PE alongside the plimsolls for indoor PE with your child's PE kit.

#### **Home Learning:**

Thank you for your continued support with your child's homework. We shall continue to send the orange phonic learning as well as the pink learning log home with your child each week and ask you to continue supporting with this as it makes such a difference to your child's learning.

We would also like to continue to encourage a love of reading so will keep sending reading and library books home for you to share with your child. Please remember to write, sign and date your child's reading record to show they are reading with you at home.

#### **Open mornings:**

Thank you for all your support in coming to the open mornings each week. All classes have their open morning on **Thursdays** where you are welcome to join in some learning with your child for the first ten minutes of the day.

#### **Dropping off children**

In preparation for Year 1, we would like parents to start dropping their children off at the glass doors rather than outside the classroom. This will ensure the children become familiar with the cloakroom procedures and

develop their independence; where children need help, the team will, as always, be available. If you need to talk to the teacher, please continue to feel free to do so.

### **The Early Years Curriculum summer 2017**

The first half of the summer term is based on 'Animals in My Garden' (snails, caterpillars/butterflies, ladybirds, bees/wasps and spiders). During this topic we find out about similarities and differences between mini-beasts, have some visiting 'creatures' for the children to see and handle and we watch our very own caterpillars transform into butterflies.



The topic in the second half of the summer term will be a selection of books based on zoo animals in preparation for our visit to Whipsnade Zoo. A letter will follow soon with the details of the trip.



Within the seven areas, we will be covering the following:

#### **Personal, Social & Emotional Development:**

Self-confidence and self-awareness, as well as being able to manage feelings and behaviour, are being focussed on this term. We also look at the way in which the children have made relationships with others outside of their family.



#### **Communication & Language:**

This term, we further develop the children's ability to speak clearly in both learning and social situations and focus on increasing their ability to listen attentively to others.

#### **Physical Development:**

We continue to develop the children's skills in moving and handling equipment appropriately and focus on the children becoming more aware of their own health needs. We encourage the children to become increasingly independent in readiness for Key Stage 1.

#### **Literacy and phonics:**

Throughout this term we use whole class, small group and individual teaching to develop the children's understanding of the books they have read. We work on the formation of spoken sentences and encourage the children to also write in simple sentences.

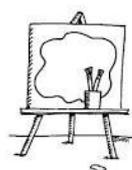


#### **Mathematics:**

In maths, we continue to work on the children's knowledge of number including place value, addition and subtraction. We also teach doubling and halving, and continue to develop an understanding of vocabulary linked to shape and measurement.

#### **Understanding the World:**

This term our topic is 'Animals in my Garden' and through this we look at the lives of mini-beasts and other common animals. We also use the skills taught last term in relation to computers, ipads, digital recorders and cameras.



#### **Expressive Arts & Design:**

The children's increased abilities in their use of drawing, painting and construction materials means we now encourage the children to express their learning and ideas through art and design. Music lessons focus on enabling the children to recognise and control rhythm in their singing, as well as developing the link between music and movement.

Yours sincerely,

S Choudhury  
Year R Leader