

Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

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Dear Parents/Carers of Year 1 Children,

Happy New Year to you all.

I do hope that you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas break. Thank you for your continued support in making Year 1 enjoyable for your children; here are a few reminders and some information to help you this term.

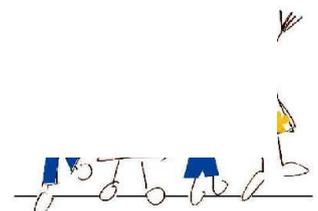
Please could you check that your child brings their reading journal to school every day as reading books are changed regularly but only when the children have book bags in school. As a team, we are making every effort to encourage and train the children to be independent and take home any letters given out. Having book bags in school would help with this. Please could you also check that your child brings the Peter Rabbit plastic wallet everyday as we will be doing work in class and the children need this resource.

As a school, we pride ourselves on presentation and appearance. Whilst most children are very smart in their main uniform, it has been noted that there are still some children who are not bringing in a full PE kit for their lessons. Please note the following guidelines:

- PE kits should be: a white t-shirt (which can be tucked into the shorts), dark blue or black PE shorts or jogging pants and plimsolls. All kit items need to be clearly labelled with the child's name and class.
- Weather permitting, one P.E. lesson a week may take place outside. Children can wear trainers and tracksuit bottoms for these sessions.
- Earrings need to be removed on PE days as otherwise they will need to be taped over.
- Please ensure that your child's PE kit still fits them. We have noticed that many children have plimsolls that are too small or have no plimsolls at all.

Please check that all clothes are named. One jumper looks much like another when it is taken off!

When sending money into school, please use a labelled envelope with details of amount, purpose and your child's name and class.



This is a fairly short but busy term. Once again, we will be continuing with our daily phonics lessons revising all the sounds learnt last term and learning new alternative sounds to support reading and spelling. We will also be focussing on letter and number formation so that all children are forming these correctly. Please do support your child with this when they are completing their learning logs.

In literacy this term, we will be focusing on reading and writing information reports and reading and writing simple stories. Weekly spelling sessions will continue and it will benefit your child if you can practise the spellings they take home on a daily basis.

In numeracy, the focus is on counting in steps of 5; knowing what each digit in a 2-digit number represents; being able to say which number is 10 more or less than a given number and doubling and halving numbers. Also, children will be learning to solve real life problems including those that involve addition, subtraction and money. In order to solve these, children will be encouraged to make decisions and choose the appropriate mathematical operation to use. Out of school, you could support this by involving the children in solving number problems around the home.

Our topic work is based around 'Kings and Queens'. We will be exploring this in history through learning about people and events from the past. Electronic and paper based information linked to the topic will be explored in ICT and the children will use iPads to create their own e-book illustration. Next half term our topic is based around a book study of traditional tales.

In science we will be finding out about materials. The children will name and compare everyday materials based on simple physical properties. Next half term we will observe changes in animals, plants, weather and day length as we move from winter to spring.

During PE, children will practise throwing and catching skills and performing a sequence of controlled dance based movements with a clear beginning, middle and end. Children enjoy music lessons and will explore pitch, rhythm and beats.

As usual, if you need any clarification relating to school, members of the team are happy to talk with you once we have released all the children to their parents. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs G Manning

Year 1 Year Leader