



## Downside Primary School

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**Headteacher:** Miss Karen Hooker

January 2018

Dear Parent and Carers of Year 5 Children,

Welcome back. I hope you had a good break and I am delighted that the children have returned to school refreshed and ready to learn.

We are really looking forward to this term and are excited about our new topic 'Ancient Egyptians'. The children will be investigating artefacts from Ancient Egypt and speculating about the life ancient Egyptians would have had. They will study aspects of daily life and compare the lives of pharaohs and peasants. In science, children will learn about light and will deepen their understanding of materials by investigating changes of state (changes between solids, liquids and gases).

Our topic for after February half term is our book study, *Skellig*, by David Almond. Although this is a challenging book, I'm sure the children will enjoy the fantastic novel as well as being interested in researching its author.

In Literacy this half term we will look at historical stories, writing a biography and poetry. In the second half term, we move on to looking at the style of David Almond's writing and persuasive writing. We are continuing to work hard with the children on their sentence structure, handwriting and spelling. Handwriting and spellings are being taught each week and children are given spellings to learn at home. It is important that the children learn the spellings they have been given. Children should also be reading daily at home.

In Numeracy we continue to practice arithmetic with the children and applying these skills to word problems. This term, we also extend the children's knowledge of measure and build on earlier work on fractions, decimals and percentages. Children will also receive Numeracy homework each week that will support what they have been learning in class.

RE will focus on how and why people inspire others. We will look at the work of some religious leaders and modern people that inspire the children. In Computing children will be looking at computer generated art and developing their understanding of online safety and the responsible use of technology.



We will continue with our very successful and enjoyable school linking project. The children will visit their link class for a day and their link classes will visit our school also.

Music lessons will focus on dynamics, looking at controlling volume with voices and instruments, and learning the related vocabulary. Children will also be playing the keyboard and will focus on copying and writing their own music using the correct number of beats in a bar.

During this term, our PE topics are hockey, golf, tchoukball and basketball. It is very cold outside so please make sure your child has a warm tracksuit and trainers for outdoor PE. They will need plimsolls to wear for indoor PE.

Many of the children (and staff!) are looking forward to our residential trip to Shortenills later in the year. Places for this are still available and we hope that this will be a creative and exciting learning experience for everyone taking part.

As ever, we really value your support in encouraging the children to complete their homework on time, learn their times tables and spellings and read regularly; this makes such a difference to their learning. Please encourage the children to make use of the internet logins they have in their Reading Journals. Times Table Rockstars, RM Maths and Mathletics are particularly useful for the children to practise their Numeracy skills.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N Dilkes

Yearr 5 Leader