

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

10 January 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Thank you for all the support you have given your child so far this year – I am really impressed with the amount of progress the children are making!

As the weather gets colder, please can I remind parents that pupils should be wearing black shoes/boots. If your child has different colour boots then they can wear them during outdoor time, but should wear their plimsolls around the school.

Parent drop ins:

We actively welcome parents in to the classroom and would love you to join your child in class once a week for a short time on Thursday from 8.45am to 9.05am. This time will be an opportunity for you to do an activity with your child and see the progress your child is making.

Parent workshops:

We will continue to offer workshops to help parents support their child's learning:

Phonics/Reading Workshop – Friday 19th January

Maths Workshop (Shape, space and measure)- Friday 2nd February

PE

As a reminder, children should have a white t-shirt, black shorts/tracksuit bottoms, trainers (for outdoor PE) and black plimsolls (for indoor PE). Please ensure all PE kit is named.

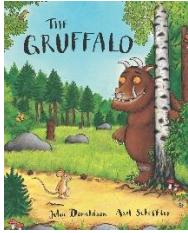
PE days are:

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



Please remember to remove all earrings on PE days and try to ensure your child wears school uniform that they can easily change in and out of.

The curriculum:



This half term we will be studying the author Julia Donaldson and her books. We will be reading 'The Gruffalo' and 'The Gruffalo's Child'. As part of our learning, we are going to be finding out more about the characters, light and dark and woodland animals and their habitats.

We have organised a trip to Wendover woods in May, to support our learning about the Gruffalo and woodlands; more details will follow shortly.

After February half term, we will continue to focus on Julia Donaldson and shall read texts including the 'Smartest Giant' and 'Stickman.'

Home Learning

Throughout the term we will continue to send weekly phonic and learning log activities home for the children to complete. We appreciate your support with this as these activities reinforce much of the learning taking place in class.

We are committed to encouraging a love of reading so will continue to send reading and library books home for you to share with your child. Please remember to write in your child's reading record to tell us about progress made at home.



Please share your child's achievements with us on snowflakes! We love to read about what your child has done at home and their latest achievements; this could be anything from cooking, drawing and making to physical activities. Please pick up a snowflake or make one of your own and tell us what your child has done so we can add it to the display outside the classroom and then put these in your child's book.

Key staff to help you this year.

If you have any concerns regarding your child in class, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

If you are also concerned that your child may have special needs, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

There are family workers linked to Year R, if you have any issues which you would like to speak to them about, please let your class teacher know and they will be able to pass on your message to Mrs Khan the key year R family worker.

I will continue to lead the Reception Team this year so if you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss L Dinham

Year R Leader