Downside Primary School

Chaul End Lane, Luton,
Bedfordshire LU4 8EZ

T: 01582 587160
E: dpsadmin@downside-primary.co.uk
W: www.downside-primary.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 1 children,

Welcome back to a new term! We hope you enjoyed the Easter break. This term, we have lots of fun activities planned for the children and some exciting new topics to teach. The name of our topic for summer 1 is Gardener's World.

Literacy:

In literacy, we will be developing the children's sentence writing through the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and through writing an explanation text linked to our Gardener's World topic. We will also be continuing with daily phonics lessons in readiness for the year 1 **phonics screening in June**.

Our teaching will be broadly in line with the following plan:

Week 1	**Poetry: Minibeasts by John Walsh** - explore the meaning of a poem - understand the structure of the poem - write a new verse for a class poem using the same structure as the main text
Week 2	**Traditional Tales: Jack and the Beanstalk** - read and retell a traditional tale - write accurate sentences based on the story
Week 3	**Traditional Tales: Jack and the Beanstalk** - discuss the characters from the story - write a character description
Week 4	**Traditional Tales: Jack and the Beanstalk:** - discuss and plan a new part for the story - write a new part for the story
Week 5	**Explanation text:** - learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction texts - read and discuss explanations texts - identify the key features of an explanation text

Week 6	**Explanation text:** - plan an explanation text about plants - write an explanation text about plants

Maths:

Our teaching will be broadly in line with the following plan:

Week 1	**Multiplication:** -count in 2's, 5's and 10's -understand that multiplication is the same as counting in equal groups
Week 2	**Division:** -understand that when you are dividing, you are sharing into equal groups
Week 3	**Money:** -recognise different British coins and understand their value
Week 4	**Fractions:** -recognise one half and one quarter of shapes
Week 5	**Fractions:** -recognise one half and one quarter of small amounts
Week 6	**Time:** -learn the number of days in a week, the number of months in a year and the number of hours in a day -read the time on analogue clocks using o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to

Science:

In science lessons, the children will learn about garden plants. They will learn the basic life cycle of flowering plants and how seeds develop into a mature plant overtime. They will also learn about the structure of a plant by learning the names and simple roles of the basic parts of a flowering plant (stem, leaf etc). In addition, the children will learn that different types of plants produce different seeds, have different types of leaves and different flowers.

RE:

This term, our RE lessons will focus on Judaism. The children will learn that the Torah is the holy book for Jewish people and that their place of worship is the Synagogue. They will also learn about the main celebrations in Judaism.

PSHE:

This half term in PSHE, the children will learn about the importance of being healthy. They will consider how to make good choices with regards to sleeping and eating and the importance of washing their hands.

Computing:

In computing lessons, the children will be introduced to on-screen programming through Scratch Jr. The children will explore the way a project looks by investigating sprites and backgrounds. They will use programming blocks to use, modify, and create programs. The children will also be introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.

DT:

In DT, the children will recap how to chop food safely using the bridge technique and then learn how to chop using the claw technique. They will learn about healthy snacks and design a healthy potato bite. Following this, the children will use the skills of chopping, mashing and grating to create their own mashed potato bite.

History:

Our history topic is Kings and Queens. The children will learn about the births and coronations of Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III. They will also learn that some aspects of national celebrations have changed over time and some have remained the same.

PE:

In P.E, the children will further develop the skills of running, jumping, throwing and catching in readiness for sports day this half term. They will also apply these skills to a variety of outdoor games.

Music:

In music, the children will use different instruments to represent different animal scenes. They will explore the different sounds they can make with each instrument and think about which sounds best represent each scene.

Thank you for encouraging your child to read at home: this is one of the most useful things you can do to support your child's learning.

Should you have any queries, please email on yr1@downside-primary.co.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,

R Awadh

Year 1 Leader