Downside Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 2 children,

Welcome back after the Easter break! It is lovely to see the children refreshed and ready to learn. We have lots of fun activities planned for the children this half term and some exciting topics to teach.

Literacy:

In Literacy, our learning will be linked to our Geography topic of 'Rainforests.' The main focus will be improving the accuracy and quality of sentence writing through adventure stories and persuasive writing units. To improve accuracy, we will teach the children how to edit and improve their work.

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

Week 1	**Poetry:** - use descriptive language to create a poem - use similes to describe an object, plant or animal - write a senses poem about the rainforest
Week 2	**Persuasive writing:** - identify the features of a persuasive text - use a variety of sources to collect facts about endangered animals -tell others what has been learnt from the research
Week 3	**Persuasive writing:** - identify and use persuasive language in writing - use conjunctions to add detail to sentences
Week 4	**Persuasive writing:** -plan persuasive a letter -write a persuasive letter -edit and improve a persuasive letter
Weeks 5	**Narrative - Finding story:** - make predictions about a story - collect vocabulary and ideas for a finding story - plan a finding story
Week 6	**Narrative - Finding story:** - write a finding story - edit and improve a written story

Maths:

In Maths this half term, the children will explore mass and position and direction. They will build on their previous knowledge of time to help them to read the time to the nearest 5 minutes. They will also continue to explore place value through problem solving.

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

Week 1	**Length:** -use a ruler to measure in cm -compare lengths -order lengths -apply the four operations to questions about length
Week 2	**Place value:** - recognise tens and ones (recap) - use a place value chart to understand numbers - partition numbers to 100 - write numbers to 100 in words - flexibly partition numbers to 100
Week 3	**Addition, subtraction and missing number:** - add a 2-digit number to a 2-digit number - subtract a 2-digit number from a 2-digit number
Week 4	**Addition, subtraction and missing number:** - find a missing number at the start of a number sentence **-** find a missing number in the middle of a number sentence - find a missing number in a word problem
Week 5	**Fractions:** - find the whole number in equations e.g. ½ of ----- = 5 - recognise unit fractions e.g. ¼ - recognise non-unit fractions e.g. ¾ - recognise the equivalence of a half and two-quarters
Week 6	**Fractions:** - recognise three-quarters of a shape - find three-quarters of a number - count in fractions up to a whole

Reading:

During reading lessons, our primary focus will be on vocabulary development and inference skills. The children will explore The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry, along with a range of other genres, including poetry, persuasive writing and instructional texts. In addition to enhancing their vocabulary and inference, the children will also practice retrieval skills to answer a variety of questions.

Science:

In Science, we will be using secondary sources (books/photographs) to learn about habitats. The children will be taught that living things live in habitats to which they are suited. Using simple scientific language, they will learn to describe how animals only thrive if their habitat has the food and shelter that they need. They will also recognise that animals and plants are dependent on each other through learning the structure of a food chain. Additionally, the children will explore how animals may lose food and shelter and cease to thrive if the plants in their environment change.

Geography:

In Geography this half term, we will be studying some of the similarities and differences between a small area of the United Kingdom (Luton) and a small area of a non-European country (Amazonia). The children will develop their understanding of physical and human geography by comparing weather patterns, physical features and human features between the two areas.

We will also continue to develop the children's skills in using maps, atlases, globes and compass directions to locate Luton and Amazonia alongside the world's continents and oceans.

RE:

R.E. will allow the children to think, talk and explore questions about how we should care about the Earth and why this is important. The children will learn about the Creation story in Christianity and different religious viewpoints on caring for the world. They will be able to give reasons why everyone (religious and non-religious) should look after the natural world.

Computing:

Our computing unit this half term is 'Digital Music'. The topic will begin with the children using a computer to experiment with sound. They will learn how to use a computer to create a musical pattern and how to review and refine their work.
During online safety sessions, the children will learn about the importance of digital footprints and be able to explain what this means.

Art:

In Art, we will be making sculptures inspired by the artist Mano Kellner. The children will learn how to use a range of materials and techniques to create a sculpture. They will practise their skills in making simple plans and shape, arrange, cut and join objects to make a sculpture of the rainforest.

Music:

During music lessons, the children will start by learning how to identify and play notes on a glockenspiel; they will then learn to play simple songs. For the second part of the half term, we will focus on singing and the children will learn to sing a song in parts.

PE:

Indoor P.E. lessons will continue to develop the children's running, jumping and throwing skills in preparation for sports day. During outdoor lessons, the children will further develop their skills in throwing and catching.

PSHE:

In PSHE lessons, we will be exploring the topic 'Money Matters.' The children will discuss where money comes from, how to keep money safe and the choices that people have about spending money. Additionally, the children will explore the difference between things that we want and things that we need.

Homework and Spellings:

This half term, we will continue to set Literacy and Numeracy homework, which will support the children's learning in school. Alongside this homework, please help your child to learn their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables and their related facts.

Homework will be accompanied by this half term's spellings. Please encourage your child to learn their spellings each week, ready for their spelling test at the end of the half term.

Should you have any queries, please email on yr2@downside-primary.co.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,

Miss O Griffith

Year 2 Leader