Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 4 children,

Welcome back. I hope you had a good break and that the children are rested and eager to return to school. As always, we have a packed half-term ahead of us with a great deal of learning to do!

Literacy:

In Literacy, we will be performing some poetry, writing an explanation text and writing a short section of an adventure story.

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

Week 1	**Recount:** -write a recount based on the plan from last half-term -edit and improve a piece of writing
Week 2	**Poetry:** -read and analyse poems that lend themselves to performance -write new or extended verses for performance -write poetry that uses sound to create effect
Week 3	**Explanation text:** -read explanations and identify the key features -use causal and time conjunctions -identify how to speak directly to the reader through the writing
Week 4	**Explanation text:** -plan an explanation text -write an explanation text -edit and improve a piece of writing
Week 5	**Adventure story:** -read and analyse paragraphs from adventure stories -use senses, verbs and adverbs to describe movement -choose adverbials and expanded noun phrases for effect -identify the features of effective dialogue

Week 6	**Adventure story:** -plan a short section of an adventure story -create effective dialogue -use a range of sentence lengths when writing a short section of an adventure story -edit and improve a piece of writing

Maths:

All Year 4 children will be participating in the national multiplication tables check in June so this term we will increase our focus on having a rapid recall of times tables up to 12 x 12. Please can you continue to support your child to practise these facts at home.

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

Week 1	**Decimals:** - make a whole number using tenths - make a whole number using hundredths - partition decimals into tenths and hundredths - flexibly partition decimals
Week 2	**Decimals:** - compare decimals based on the number of hundredths and tenths **-** order decimals with one and two decimal places - place decimals on a number line - understand ½, ¼ and ¾ as decimals
Week 3	**Money:** - write money using decimals - convert money from pounds to pence and back again - compare and order amounts of money shown in pence and in pounds and pence e.g. order 130p, £0.32, £13.20
Week 4	**Money:** - use rounding to the whole number to estimate calculations involving money - subtract pounds and pence from pounds e.g. £9 - £2.86 - multiply and divide amounts of money - solve problems involving money
Week 5	**Time:** -understand that there are different units of time -convert between analogue and digital times including using the 12 and 24 hour clocks
Week 6	**Time:** -solve problems involving time

Science:

In Science, the children will be learning about plants. They will identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants. They will also learn what plants need to thrive and investigate the way in which water is transported within them. In addition, the children will explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

RE:

In RE, the children will be learning about different festivals from a range of faiths. They will identify and describe how the festivals of Vaisakhi (Sikhism), Passover (Judaism) and Diwali (Hinduism) are celebrated. They will also read and explain examples of texts and stories which lie behind the festivals in terms of the values and beliefs they show.

Computing:

In computing lessons, the children will be using photo editing software to change the composition of digital images. They will learn that colours can be changed in digital images and how cloning can be used. The children will then combine images, use them for a purpose and then evaluate their work.

Art:

In art, the children will be using the work of J.M.W Turner (a famous artist) to support them in creating their own final piece. They will explore different pieces of art created by Turner. The children will learn how to use watercolours effectively to create lighter and darker shades. They will also use line and shade to create perspective and colours to show time of day and mood.

PE:

This half-term, Baker Street will be going swimming after Marble Arch. The other activities that the children will take part in are cricket and throwing and catching games.

Music:

In music, the children will be learning about music from around the world. They will learn to sing with a good sense of pulse so they can sing in time with a group. They will also learn the difference between the melody and harmony lines in a song. In addition, they will compose a 16 beat vocal arrangement using harmonies and sing as part of an ensemble.

MFL:

In Spanish, the children will revise and improve their knowledge of colours and learn a range of Spanish nouns, verbs and adjectives linked to everyday activities and hobbies.

Geography:

In geography, the children will be looking at maps of the UK to locate the capital cities. In addition, they will learn the standardised keys and symbols used on maps and practise using grid references and compass points to plan a journey.

PHSE:

The focus in PHSE will be Money Matters. Within this, the children will learn that people go to work for a variety of reasons, one of which is to earn money. They will learn that there are a variety of ways to pay for the things that we need and that sometimes people borrow money to pay for things they cannot immediately afford. They will consider the risks and benefits of borrowing money and consider scenarios and decisions based on the things we need, the things we want and the things that are a priority. The half-term will end with the children learning how adverts influence spending and why they do this.

Homework:

On a weekly basis, the children will receive Numeracy and Literacy homework tasks as well as times tables and spelling rules to learn at home. Additionally, the children will continue to receive books on Oxford Reading Buddy. If you could support your child with these and listen to them read on a regular basis, then it will really help their learning and enable them to make the most of school.

I hope this helps with an understanding of what your child will be learning this half term.

Should you have any queries, please email on yr4@downside-primary.co.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Shah

Year 4 Leader