Downside Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers of year 5 children,

Welcome back after the Easter break! We have lots of fun activities planned for the children this term and some exciting topics to teach.

Literacy:

In Literacy, the children will be learning to write a setting description and a newspaper article. We will also be focusing on grammar, spelling and handwriting skills at a Year 5 level.

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

Week 1	**Diary (based on the class novel: October, October):** - understand the key features of a diary entry - explore techniques for including emotion in a diary entry
Week 2	**Diary (based on the class novel: October, October):** - explore techniques for writing interesting diaries including the use of subordinate clauses to create compound sentences, complex sentences and sentences of varied lengths - collect ideas and vocabulary for a diary entry
Week 3	**Diary (based on the class novel: October, October):** - plan, draft and write a diary entry using adverbials to indicate time and to link ideas, sentences and paragraphs - edit and improve writing, including by proofreading to check for errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation
Week 4	**Narrative (based on the class novel: October, October):** - read and explore the techniques the author has used to create a scene - collect ideas and vocabulary for our own writing
Week 5	**Narrative (based on the class novel: October, October):** - revise and develop the use of speech to develop the action and get to know a character - plan an imagined scene
Week 6	**Narrative (based on the class novel: October, October):** - draft and write using figurative language and year 5 sentence types to describe an imagined scene - edit and improve writing, including by proofreading to check for errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation

Maths:

Each week, we will revise and practise the children's arithmetic knowledge. In addition, we will teach units of work on shape and position and direction. Reasoning and problem solving is included in all lessons. Our teaching will be broadly in line with the following plan:

Week 1	**Perimeter and Area:** - calculate perimeter of rectangles - calculate perimeter of rectilinear shapes - calculate perimeter of polygons - calculate area of rectangles - calculate area of compound shapes - estimate the area of irregular shapes
Week 2	**Shape:** - understand degree as a unit of measure for turn, including using the degree symbol - classify angles as acute, obtuse, reflex or right angles - estimate and measure the size of angles in degrees
Week 3	**Shape:** - use a protractor to measure angles up to 180° - draw lines and angles accurately - calculate angles around a point
Week 4	**Shape:** - calculate angles on a straight line - calculate missing lengths and angles in shapes - explore regular and irregular polygons - recap the names and properties of 3-D shapes
Week 5	**Position and direction:** - read and plot coordinates - carry out problem solving activities using coordinates - translate points and shapes
Week 6	**Position and direction:** - translate points and shapes using coordinates - find lines of symmetry - reflect shapes in horizontal and vertical lines

Reading:

Our book study this half term is: **October, October** by Katya Balen. Many of the children are now 'free readers' so it is important that they are reading age-related books from the class library or school library. The Year 5 Recommended Reads list is available on the Year 5 page of our website to support with knowing the standard of book that should be being read. These books can be borrowed from the school or bought online. Year 5 staff are happy to advise you on which books Year 5 children could be reading at home.

Spellings:

In Summer 1, we will revise the Spring term spelling rules and prefixes. The children will learn how to convert nouns and adjectives into verbs and identify homophones and near homophones. We will also teach a selection of the year 5/6 statutory spellings. The children will bring home a sheet with information about these rules. At the end of the half term, we will test the children on these rules.

Science:

In Science, the children will learn about dissolving. As part of this, they will compare everyday materials on the basis of their solubility and learn that some materials dissolve in water to form a solution. The children will also use their knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving, evaporating and condensing.

RE:

Our RE this term will revolve around the enquiry question: How is faith expressed in Islam? The children will identify and explain Muslim beliefs about God, the Prophet and the Holy Quran. They will also learn that Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam and that there is a festival at the end called Eid-ul-Adha. In addition, the children will discuss the connections between the Muslim beliefs studied and Muslim ways of living in Britain. As a part of this unit, the children will visit the Cambridge Central Mosque.

History:

In History, the children will learn about an ancient Early Islamic Civilisation in Baghdad. The children will learn about the expansion of this Islamic Empire and about The Abbasid caliphate based in Baghdad. They will also consider how, during this period, the city became a centre of learning where great advances were made in science, maths and the arts. The children will work to understand how the House of Wisdom influenced the wider world and how the city became the effective historical successor to the scientific advances of the Greeks and Romans.

PSHE:

In PSHE this half term, the children will learn how to make healthy choices. They will learn that exercise can improve mood and strengthen the bones, lungs and heart. They will also learn that there are physical and mental effects of not getting enough sleep and understand that diet, personal hygiene, mental health, exercise and rest all help to keep our bodies healthy. In addition, the children will learn about more of the physical changes that occur during puberty: this lesson will be taught in single sex groups. The children will also learn about the importance of personal hygiene in relation to puberty.

Computing:

In Computing lessons, the children will be introduced to the Crumble programming software. They will learn how to control and program a simple circuit and connect it to a microcontroller to control LEDs and motors. The children will also learn how to design their own program and include a sequence of actions for the components.

Spanish:

In Spanish this half term, the children will learn how to extend simple sentences using conjunctions. They will practise naming a variety of food items in Spanish and work towards labelling a balanced food plate.

DT:

In DT lessons, the children will revise the importance of healthy living and of having vegetables in our diet. In addition, they will learn where many different vegetables come from. The children will learn the technical skills to make dough for pizza using kneading, proving and stretching. As a part of this unit, Chef Julia will be demonstrating pizza dough making in the lead up to the children designing and making their own pizza.

PE:

In PE, the children will develop their skills in athletics. Outside, they will take part in lacrosse, frisbee and cricket as well as activities in preparation for Sports Day.

Music:

In Music, the children will write their own piece and perform it. They will also consider why people write music. In addition, they will continue to increase their knowledge of musical genres.

Homework:

The children receive homework tasks on a weekly basis as well spelling rules to learn at home. If you could support your child with these, listen to them read on a regular basis, discuss the books they have read and the work they do in school, then it will really help their learning and enable them to make the most of school.

Curriculum Websites:

The school provides the children with a range of websites that they can use to enhance their learning at home. Your child has individual log-ins for these sites which can be found in their reading journal.

Numeracy: **RM Easimaths** and **Times Tables Rockstars**. Just 5 minutes daily working on each website would be really beneficial.

Literacy: **Oxford Reading Buddy** is a wonderful site to help develop comprehension skills, **Spag.com** quizzes the children on the Key Stage 2 Grammar requirements. **ePlatform** (online library) hosts a range of e-books and audio books.

Should you have any queries, please email on yr5@downside-primary.co.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Ali

Year 5 Leader