**Downside Primary School**

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**Headteacher:** Miss Karen Hooker

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 6 children,

I hope you had a wonderful break and enjoyed the sunshine. It is lovely to see the children rested and ready for more learning but it is also hard to believe that we are at this point in the year already!

The end-of-Key Stage Two SATs tests are just a few weeks away now and the children have been working exceptionally hard in school to prepare for them: we really appreciate the support you are giving your children at home, helping them to practise the skills they are learning at school. It is really important that your child attends school every day this term to ensure they do not miss any vital days of revision.

Morning boosters from 8:15am on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays will continue in the run-up to the tests.

**The dates for the SATs tests are below:**

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| Monday 11th May | English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling |
| Tuesday 12th May | English Reading |
| Wednesday 13th May | Mathematics (Paper 1 Arithmetic and Paper 2 Reasoning) |
| Thursday 14th May | Mathematics (Paper 3 Reasoning) |

If you were unable to attend the SATs information meeting on Tuesday 14th April, you can find the presentation slides in the Year 6 section of our school website.

As a reminder, there will be a SATs breakfast each morning of SATs week (Monday - Thursday) from 8:15am. We really encourage the children to come in for this, even if they have already eaten at home, as it can help to calm nerves

**Literacy:**

In Literacy sets, we will continue our writing until the end of the summer term in order to help the children prepare for the demands of high school. The children will write a variety of texts focusing on applying all the skills they have learnt this year. Their work will then be used as evidence for their writing teacher assessment.

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

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|---|---|
| Week 1 | **Fiction:**<br>- revise incorporating effective dialogue into narrative writing<br>- plan an imagined scene based on the novel 'When the Sky Falls' |
| Week 2 | **Fiction:**<br>- write an imagined scene based on the novel 'When the Sky Falls'<br>- edit and improve writing |
| Week 3 | **Non-fiction:**<br>- revise features of a discussion text<br>- explore the use of cohesive language in a discussion text including conjunctions and cohesive phrases<br>- plan a discussion text linked to the evacuation of children during World War Two |
| Week 4 | **Non-fiction:**<br>- write a discussion text linked to the evacuation of children during World War Two<br>- edit and improve writing |
| Week 5 | **Persuasion:**<br>- consider the audience and appropriate level of formality when writing a letter<br>- revise simple, compound and complex sentences<br>- plan a formal persuasive letter linked to the novel 'When the Sky Falls' |
| Week 6 | **Persuasion:**<br>- write a formal persuasive letter linked to the novel 'When the Sky Falls'<br>- edit and improve writing |

**Maths:**

In Maths, we will be revising in preparation for SATs. Following the tests, the children will apply the skills they have learned to problem-solving activities and investigations.

**Science:**

Science this half term will be about humans and their diet. The children will learn about the dangers to the human body of eating too much salt and too many calories. They will learn that calories tell us how much energy there is in food and read and compare nutritional information on food labels. Prior learning about the importance of eating a balanced diet will be revised. In addition, the children will learn about some of the benefits of exercise and reasons that sleep is important for the human body. They will also learn that all drugs (legal and illegal) have an impact on the human body and explore both the negative and positive impacts of a small number of these.

**PSHE:**

Our lessons this half-term will support the children in deepening their understanding of a positive mental attitude and how this can help a person achieve their goals. By focussing on the benefits of a growth (rather than a fixed) mindset, the children will learn that being able to recognise emotions can help them deal with uncomfortable feelings. We will also look at a range of useful mindfulness techniques which have been proven to help calm the mind.

**Computing:**

In computing, the children will be developing their knowledge of using formulas within spreadsheets and applying this to sets of data.

**History:**

Our World War Two topic continues this half-term. The children will deepen their understanding as they learn about the evacuation of war-time children from towns and cities to the countryside for their own safety and the impact of rationing on the people of Britain.

**RE:**

In RE, our topic will focus on inspirational people from different religions. The children will learn what it means to be considered an inspirational person and use this to identify inspirational people in their own lives. They will also consider how inspirational people can bring believers closer to God and their importance in different religions.

**Art:**

Moving on from our clay relief tile inspired by Picasso's Guernica, the children will explore and discuss the work of World War Two artists by studying the techniques they use within their pieces. They will then create their own drawing in the style of Henry Moore.

**PE:**

In PE, the children will revise and refine the skills they have been taught through the school and take part in athletics and cricket.

Should you have any queries about any of the above, please email yr6@downside-primary.co.uk and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Orrell
Year 6 Leader