Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

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Dear parents and carers of year 1 children,

Welcome back, we hope you had an enjoyable half-term break. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended parent's evenings. We hope you found this to be a valuable insight into your child's learning.

Literacy:

This half term in Literacy, we will be focusing on simple stories and recounts. The children will be taught to read high frequency words and to extend their knowledge of phonics so that they can read and spell increasingly complex words. You can help your child with this by supporting them in completing their Oxford Owl assignments.

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

Week 1	**Narrative: On the Way Home** -use knowledge of vocabulary to better understand the text
Week 2	**Narrative: Rosie's walk** -learn prepositions for place e.g. under, through etc. -write sentences using prepositions
Week 3	**Recount:** -understand and use past tense verbs (using the suffix 'ed')
Week 4	**Recount:** -use past tense to write a recount about the walk around the local area
Week 5	**Narrative: The Shopping Expedition** -use knowledge of vocabulary to better understand the text -identify and explain the sequence of events in the text using time phrases e.g. first, next, then, finally
Week 6	**Narrative: The Shopping Expedition** -plan a story sequence based on the text **-**write a story sequence based on the text
Week 7	**Poetry:** -understand, learn and perform a poem

Maths:

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

Week 1	**Addition and Subtraction:** -revise number formation -use a part/whole model and knowledge of number bonds to find a missing number e.g. 2+_ = 5
Week 2	**Addition and Subtraction:** -subtract from a 1-digit number using practical equipment -subtract from a 1-digit number using pictorial representation
Week 3	**Addition and Subtraction:** -subtract from a 1-digit number using a number line
Week 4	**Addition and Subtraction:** -use the part/whole model to create fact families
Week 5	**Length:** -Compare length and heights -Use objects to measure the length and height of objects
Week 6	**Length:** -measure length in cm
Week 7	**Consolidation:** -Recap the learning taught this term

Science:

In science, the children will learn to identify and name a variety of common animals. They will also compare and describe observable features of these animals e.g. beaks and snouts/feathers and fur and use the similarities and differences between them to organise them into groups. At the end of the half term, the children will learn about the five senses in humans.

Geography:

This half term, the children will learn about the features of our local area including finding out about the types of buildings around the school. They will also start to use simple mapping skills to create a map of the local area.

RE:

In RE, the children will learn about Christianity. Our main focus will be the Nativity story, which each class will perform to parents towards the end of the half term.

Computing:

The children will learn about algorithms and how they are implemented as programs on digital devices. The children will also create and debug simple programs. Alongside this, the children will continue to be taught how to use technology safely and respectfully.

Art:

In art lessons, the children will learn about the artist Maurice Sendak, who illustrated the book, 'Where the Wild Things Are'. They will use his illustrations as inspiration to experiment with lines and marks to create textures and learn the techniques of hatching and crosshatching. The children will then create their own Wild Thing using sketching pencils, charcoal or charcoal pencils.

Music:

Children enjoy music lessons and will learn to keep a steady beat to a piece of music as well as create their own simple rhythm patterns on untuned percussion.

PE:

In PE, the children will practise skills such as rolling, jumping and balancing in our indoor sessions and looking, running and avoiding colliding with others in our outdoor sessions.

PSHE:

In PSHE, the children will discuss how positive thinking can be used to aid wellbeing. They will also learn about making good choices and consider the impact our choices have on the way we feel and the way we make others feel.

Homework and Reading

The children have homework tasks each week, which are sent out on a Wednesday and expected back at school on a Monday. The children are able to ask for help at school if they do not understand the tasks. We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete this on time.

Alongside their homework, the children will receive reading and library books that will be changed regularly at school. Please support your child by reading with them at least five times a week and recording this in their home school reading book.

Reading mornings

Year 1 will continue with their reading mornings on a Friday morning. This is an opportunity to listen to your child read in the classroom and to support your child with their reading. It is wonderful to have so many parents joining us each week as it really makes a difference in how the children perceive the importance of reading.

As you can see, we have a very busy and exciting time to look forward to this half term. Your support is greatly appreciated and I look forward to your continued support.

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,

Miss R. Awadh

Year 1 Leader