Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

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Dear parents and carers of year 1 children,

Happy New Year to you all.

I do hope that you had an enjoyable and restful break. Thank you for your continued support in making Year 1 enjoyable for your children; here are a few reminders and some information to help you this term.

Literacy

In literacy this term, we will be focusing on simple stories and recounts. The children will be taught to read key words and to extend their knowledge of phonics so that they can read and spell increasingly complex words. You can support your child by helping them read their reading books and encouraging them to discuss the stories they have read.

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

Week 1	**Narrative - 'Where the Wild Things Are':** -Look for clues to predict what may happen in the story. -Use a story script to learn a story by heart.
Week 2	**Narrative - 'Where the Wild Things Are':** -Write descriptive sentences about story characters.
Week 3	**Narrative - ''Where the Wild Things Are':** -Create and write a new story based on the story '**Where the Wild Things Are'.**
Week 4	**Information Report about Luton:** -Revise the differences between fiction and non-fiction. -Identify the features of an information report.
Week 5	**Information Report about Luton:** -Organise information into categories. -Practise writing sentences in the present tense.
Week 6	**Information Report about Luton:** -Write sentences using the conjunctions and, because and but.

Maths

This half term, the focus is on understanding number, learning number bonds to 20 and being able to manipulate numbers in order to add and subtract using a variety of strategies. In addition, the children will learn to solve real life problems linked to addition and subtraction. In order to solve these problems, the children will be encouraged to make decisions and choose the appropriate mathematical operation to use. Out of school, you could support this by involving the children in solving number problems around the home.

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

Weeks 1 & 2	**Place value:** -Learn numbers bonds up to 20 e.g. 12 and 7 is 19, 12 and 6 is 18 etc. -Find one more and one less than a number within 20.
Week 3	**Addition and subtraction:** -Use equipment and pictorial representation to add two numbers within 20. -Use the part whole model to solve addition number sentences.
Week 4	**Addition and subtraction:** -Use the part whole model to show subtraction. -Solve a subtraction number sentence. -Solve simple word problems involving addition.
Week 5	**Addition and subtraction:** -Use equipment and pictorial representation to subtract two small numbers. -Use the part whole model to solve subtraction number sentences. -Use a number line to work out addition and subtraction number sentences.
Week 6	**Measure: (Mass)** -Measure mass e.g. how heavy or light an object is.

Phonics

Once again, we will continue with our daily phonics lessons, revise all the sounds learnt last term and learn new alternative spellings for known sounds; this supports both reading and spelling.

Handwriting

We will continue to focus on letter formation so that all the children are able to write letters correctly.

Science

Science will focus on the seasons. The children will compare the weather between winter and summer and recognise that these changes happen gradually during the spring and autumn. They will also learn about changes in local plants and animals between winter and summer with a particular focus on deciduous and evergreen trees.

History

In history, the children will learn about people and events from the past. This learning will centre around some of the main buildings in Luton and focus particularly on the Town Hall and Luton Hoo.

RE

In RE, the focus for this half term is Islam. The children will learn what Muslims believe and how they live.

Computing

Computing lessons will focus on grouping data. The children will practise labelling, grouping and searching as these are important aspects of data and information. This unit will help them to understand how computers are able to group and present data.

Art

Our art topic is 'drawing' and we will study the work of Pablo Picasso and Romero Britto. The children will take ideas from these artists to create their own self-portraits in an abstract style.

PE

In PE, the children will create and perform their own ideas in dance. They will also learn how to use different equipment to strike a ball with a focus on the correct placement of their hands and feet.

Music

In music lessons, the children will develop their singing through learning a range of call and response songs. They will end the half term by singing a call and response song as part of a class choir.

PSHE

The children will learn that they belong to various groups and communities and consider ways in which they contribute positively to these groups.

Additional Information

Please could you check that your child brings their reading journal to school every day as reading books are changed regularly but only when the children have book bags in school. As a team, we are making every effort to encourage and train the children to be independent and take home any letters given out. Having book bags in school would help with this. All homework will be uploaded onto Google Classroom so it can easily be accessed at home. For those who find it easier, we will also continue sending out homework in Learning Logs.

As a school, we pride ourselves on presentation and appearance. The majority of children are very smart in their main uniform – thank you.

For PE, please note the following guidelines:

- PE kits should be: a white t-shirt (which can be tucked into the shorts), black PE shorts or jogging pants and plimsolls. As the weather is now quite cold, children can also wear black jumpers. All kit items need to be clearly labelled with the child's name and class.
- Weather permitting, one P.E. lesson a week may take place outside. Children can wear trainers, tracksuit jumpers and tracksuit bottoms for these sessions.
- Earrings need to be removed on PE days as otherwise they will need to be taped over.
- Please ensure that your child's PE kit still fits them. We have noticed that many children have plimsolls that are too small or have no plimsolls at all.

Please check that all clothes are named. One jumper looks much like another when it is taken off!

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,

Mrs. G. Manning

Year 1 Leader