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! I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful break. It is lovely to see the children back and ready to learn. Below are a few reminders and some information for this term.

Literacy:

In literacy this term, we will be focusing on simple stories and information texts. 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.

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 map 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 innovate 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 texts -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 numbers to 20, learning number bonds 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.

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

Week 1	**Place value:** -count backwards and forwards to 20 -represent numbers to 20 in different ways
Week 2	**Place value:** -find 1 more and 1 less than a number up to 20 -place numbers to 20 on a number line -learn number bonds to 20 and spot number patterns
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 and Spelling:

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. Please continue to support your child to complete the weekly Oxford Owl assignments - all logins are at the back of their pink reading journals.

The children will be given a new set of spellings in their homework books, including common exception words and words that follow the same rules. They will have their half-termly spelling test on the week beginning 9th February.

Science:

Science will focus on the changes in seasons from summer to winter. 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 'painting' 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:

This half term, in PHSE, the children will learn that they belong to various communities such as their school community and their local neighbourhood. They will consider ways in which they can contribute positively to these groups. Finally, the children will learn some of the similarities and differences between British people and think about what it means to be British.

Additional Information:

Thank you for the reading you do with your child at home. Please could you check that your child brings their reading journal to school every day as reading books are changed regularly.

As a team, we are working hard to ensure the children are as independent as possible. Please support us in this by ensuring that your child brings their PE kit in their bags to change into in school (unless advised otherwise).

As a reminder, PE kits should be a white t-shirt, black shorts/jogging bottoms, black jumper/tracksuit top and plimsolls/trainers. So that any lost kit can be returned, please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with the **child's name and class.**

I hope this information will help you to provide support for your child at home. If 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