Downside Primary School

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March 2025

Dear parents and carers of year 1 children,

Welcome back; I hope everybody had a good half term break! It has been lovely to see the children coming back to school smiling and looking smart in their school uniform.

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 half term.

Literacy:

In literacy this half term, we will focus on simple stories and instructions. 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. Please encourage your child to read the books assigned on Oxford Owl as these books are tailor-made to your child's reading stage.

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

Week 1	**Instructions:** -Recognise imperative verbs. -Read and write sets of commands using imperative verbs.
Week 2	**Instructions:** -Recap time conjunctions. -Write a set of instructions using imperative verbs and time conjunctions.
Week 3	**Traditional Tales:** -Learn and retell a selection of traditional tales. -When reading traditional tales, predict what might happen next.
Week 4	**Traditional Tales:** -Orally plan and rehearse ideas for a new part of a traditional tale. -Say and remember a sentence prior to writing it.
Week 5	**Traditional Tales:** -Use story strips to plan an alternative version of a traditional tale. -Use story strips to write an alternative version of a traditional tale.

Week 6	**Poetry:** - Learn a poem by heart. - Understand the meaning of the poem. - Create a new verse for the poem.

Maths:

The focus of maths lessons will be counting in different steps, including in steps of 5; knowing what each digit in a 2-digit number represents; being able to say which number is 10 more or less than a given number and doubling and halving numbers. The children will also learn to solve real life problems including those that involve addition, subtraction and measure. In order to solve these, the children will make decisions and choose the appropriate mathematical operation to use. Out of school, you could support this by involving your child in solving number problems around the home.

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

Week 1	**Place Value:** -Count from 20 to 50 in ones, twos, fives and tens.
Week 2	**Place Value:** -Understand what each digit represents in a two-digit number. -Use a number line to order numbers. -Find one more and one less than a number.
Week 3	**Place Value:** -Estimate a number from its position on a number line. -Find one more and one less than a number.
Week 4	**Measure: Volume** -Compare the volume of two containers by using full, half full, nearly empty and empty.
Week 5	**Money:** -Recognise and know the value of the full range of UK coins. -Count the value of a group of coins. -Recognise and know the value of UK notes.
Week 6	**Fractions:** -Identify and find halves of shapes. -Find halves of numbers.

Phonics:

In our daily phonics lessons, we will revise all the sounds learnt last half term and learn alternative spellings for these sounds. This will support both reading and spelling.

Handwriting:

We will continue to focus on letter formation so that all children are writing their letters correctly.

Science:

In science, the children will be introduced to forces (Physics). The children will identify some sources of light and recognise that some are natural and some are manmade. Similarly, they will identify some sources of sound and recognise that some are natural and some are man-made. Finally, the children will learn that movement is caused by a push or a pull.

History:

Our history topic is Kings and Queens. The children will learn about the births and coronations of Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III. The children will learn that some aspects of national celebrations have changed over time and some have remained the same.

RE:

The children will continue to learn about Islam, including what Muslims believe and how they live. Much of this learning will be through the telling of stories.

Computing:

In computing, we will use technology to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content. We will use the Paintz app to explore different freehand tools. We will also use the shape tool and the line tool to be able to make careful choices when painting a digital picture.

PE:

In PE, the children will practise the skills of throwing and catching.

Music:

Children enjoy music lessons and will learn to sing in tune within a limited pitch range. They will also identify the type of instruments being played in a piece of music.

PSHE:

In PSHE, our topic is called 'Be Yourself'. The children will be taught to recognise their positive qualities and appreciate their individuality.

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 their 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. If you can, please use Google Classroom to find and upload all homework; we will also continue sending out Learning Logs.

As a school, we pride ourselves on presentation and appearance. Whilst most children are very smart in their main uniform, there are still some children who are not wearing a full PE kit for their lessons. Please note the following guidelines:

- PE kits should be: a white t-shirt (which can be tucked into the shorts), dark blue or 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