

## Downside Primary School

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**Headteacher:** Miss Karen Hooker

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 2 children,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a busy spring term for Year 2. The children worked very hard during the first part of the year and some good progress has already been made. During the term ahead, they will be finding out about a famous children's author and illustrator and they will continue to develop their scientific skills by exploring humans and healthy living.

### Literacy

This term, the children are studying the stories of Roald Dahl and they will be learning how to explore, describe and compare some of the different characters and stories that he has created. Class based and individual reading will also take place each week. During these sessions, the children will develop their reading and comprehension skills. Please continue to give your child daily opportunities to practise their spellings, sentence-writing and reading. We will also start reading our Year 2 book: 'Esio Trot' which will form some of our homework this term. Every child will receive a copy of this text along with activities to complete at home.

### Numeracy

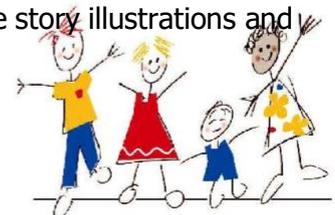
The children will continue to improve their mental calculation and problem-solving skills using all 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). They will also increase their mathematical vocabulary and their understanding of place value. You can support your child by ensuring that they practise their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables and learn number facts for numbers up to 20. Learning the names and properties of common 2D and 3D shapes will help the children in their work in shape and space. You can help them in their understanding of measure by pointing out lengths, weights and capacities of household objects and by getting them to read scales such as rulers, weighing scales and jugs.

### Science

During the spring term, Year 2 children will be learning about the things that animals and humans need to live healthily. They will learn about human and animal life cycles, explore their senses and improve their understanding of the importance of exercise and healthy eating. They will be using information sources to research both of these topics so would benefit from finding out about animals and healthy living from the library, books, newspapers or the internet.

### Art and Design Technology

To link in with our topics this term, the children will explore and recreate story illustrations and characters in the style of famous illustrators such as Quentin Blake.



## PE

In outdoor PE, children will learn key hockey skills – how to hold a hockey stick and how to dribble in hockey. Indoor PE will focus on tennis and refining the children's tennis skills. Next half term, children will be introduced to orienteering and will create their own dance sequences in indoor PE.

## Music

In the first half term, the children will be developing their knowledge of dynamics and duration (volume and length of sounds) and in the second half term, will be learning about musical instrument families with a special focus on woodwind and tuned and untuned percussion.

## RE

Through RE lessons, the children will think about how we can show we care for others and why it matters to be a caring person. During the second half of the term, they will learn why Easter matters to Christians.

Homework will be loaded weekly onto Google Classroom and will contain a combination of reading activities and numeracy tasks. Spellings will be sent home at the beginning of each half term. Each spelling rule/pattern will be taught in spelling lessons but we ask that you help your child to also practise these at home. Alongside homework and spellings, please encourage and help your child to learn their times tables (x2, x10, x5 and x3).

I hope this information will help you provide support for your child at home. If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher or email the team at [year2@downside-primary.co.uk](mailto:year2@downside-primary.co.uk) .

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ball  
Year 2 Leader