



Downside Primary School

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September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 1 children,

I am pleased to say that the Year 1 children have settled nicely into their new classes and are getting used to the routines and expectations of life in key stage one. We are very proud of the children as this has been a big change for all of them. Your support so far in helping the children turn up on time, properly equipped with PE kits, has been much appreciated. These small things make such a difference to the children and I am sure I can continue to rely on your support as the year continues.

We begin the year with a curriculum that is closely linked to that in reception and will develop it over the year to prepare the children for Year 2.

In literacy this term, we focus on simple stories and recounts. The children are 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.

In numeracy, we focus on the numbers 0 – 100 and encourage the children to recognise the value of coins and find totals up to 10p. We explore the concepts 'heavy' and 'light' and learn to describe both 2D and 3D shapes. The children are taught the days of the week and how to read analogue clocks to 0'clock.

Our topic this half term is history based and is called 'All About Me'. The children will be learning about their family tree, comparing toys from the past with modern toys and learning how technology has changed during the last few years. In science, the children will learn about seasonal changes in weather and the impact this has on local plants and animals. Our ICT lessons focus on allowing the children to become familiar with the laptops and the programmes they contain.



Next half term, our topic will be geography based and is called 'Where We live'. In this topic, the children will explore the local area. In science, they will learn about common animals and the 5 senses in humans.

In PE, the children will practise skills such as throwing, catching, kicking and patting to develop hand-eye coordination across a range of different striking sports. They will also be developing skills in gymnastics.

During this half term, our PSHE focuses on the key values of kindness and patience. Next half term the children will learn about the values of simplicity and trust. In RE, we will be learning about Christianity. Next half term, the children will carry on learning about Christianity and will hopefully prepare and perform the Nativity story for parents and carers.

Children enjoy music lessons and will continue to develop their ability to make a range of sounds using a wide variety of instruments. This half term, we will be focusing specifically on changing the tempo (speed) of music. Next half term, the focus changes to understanding different pitches and the impact of this on music and songs. In DT, this half term, we will design, make and evaluate a moving picture and next half term, we will design and make finger puppets.

As you can see, we have a very busy and exciting time to look forward to this term and, as previously mentioned, your support is greatly valued as this helps your child to make the most of every opportunity. I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout this academic year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs G. Manning

Year 1 Leader