

Downside Primary School

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April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 2 children,

Welcome back after the Easter break! We have lots of fun activities planned for the children this term and some exciting topics to teach.

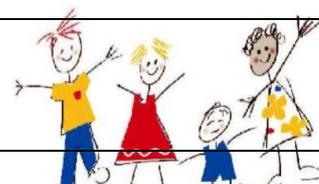
Parents have highlighted that they would like further information about what their child is learning and therefore this letter should give you a more detailed insight into our topics and learning for this half term.

Literacy:

In Literacy, our learning will be linked to our topic of 'Rainforests.' The main focus of this term will be improving the accuracy and quality of sentence writing through adventure stories and persuasive writing units. To improve accuracy, we will be teaching the children skills to help them to edit and improve their work.

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

Weeks 1	Persuasive writing : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify features of a persuasive text.- Use sources to collect facts about endangered animals.-Orally present research.
Week 2	Persuasive writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify and use persuasive language.- Use conjunctions to add detail.
Week 3	Poetry: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Use descriptive language to create a poem.- Use similes to describe an object, plant or animal.- Write a senses poem about the rainforest.
Weeks 4	Narrative - Finding story: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Make predictions about a story.- Collect vocabulary and ideas for a finding story.- Plan a finding story.
Week 5	Narrative - Finding story: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Write a finding story.- Edit and improve the written story.
Week 6	Assessments



Maths:

In Maths, this half term, the children will continue to practise strategies to add, subtract, multiply and divide and use these skills to help them to reason, problem solve and spot patterns, We will also be exploring mass by measuring and comparing mass in standard and non-standard units.

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

Week 1	Addition and subtraction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify and use known number facts to find other facts.- Use empty number lines to add and subtract 2-digit numbers.-Solve one step and two step word problems.
Week 2	Addition and subtraction - Missing numbers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Solve addition and subtraction missing number problems.- Solve more complex missing number problems E.g. $24 + 12 = _ + 18$
Week 3	Measure – mass: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Compare and order mass.-Measure mass in grams and kilograms.-Solve problems using mass.
Week 4	Multiplication and Division: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use strategies to multiply and divide.- Use the inverse to find missing numbers.-Solve complex problems.
Week 5	Assessments
Week 6	Place Value: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Partition 2-digit numbers in different ways.-Find missing numbers.-Solve problems.

Reading

During reading lessons, we will be studying the book 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry. The children will explore vocabulary and events in the story and they will have the opportunity to practise retrieval and inference skills to answer questions.

Science

In Science, we will be using sources (books, photographs ...) to learn about habitats. The children will be taught that living things live in habitats to which they are suited. Using simple scientific language, they will be taught to describe how animals only thrive if they have the right food and shelter in their habitat. We also recognise that animals and plants are dependent on each other through learning the structure of a food chain. Additionally, they will explore how animals may lose food and shelter and cease to thrive if the plants in their environment change.

Geography

In Geography this half term, we will be studying similarities and differences between a small area of the United Kingdom (Luton) and a small area of a non-European country (Amazonia). The children will develop their understanding of physical and human geography by comparing weather patterns, physical features and human features between the two areas. We will continue to develop the children's skills in using maps, atlases, globes and compass directions to locate Luton and Amazonia alongside the world's continents and oceans.

RE

R.E. will allow the children to think, talk and explore questions about how we should care about the Earth and why this matters. The children will learn about the Creation story and different religious viewpoints on caring for the world. They will be able to give reasons why everyone (religious and non-religious) should look after the natural world.

ICT

Our ICT unit this half term is data handling. The topic will begin with children creating a branching database using their own questions. They will be taught what a branching database is and how to create these with and without technology. This will allow them to understand the impact technology can have on time-saving. They will use their branching database to identify mini-beasts within school. Children will then collect data, based on the mini-beasts, and form a range of charts online. They will not only be taught how to create a range of charts but also link this to prior knowledge in maths so they are able to interpret them. Finally, they will need to record themselves explaining what their data shows, recapping recording skills from previous years.

Art

In Art, we will be making sculptures inspired by the artist Mano Kellner. The children will be taught to use a range of materials and techniques to create their sculpture. They will have the opportunity to practise their skills in making simple plans and to shape, arrange, cut and join objects to make a sculpture of the rainforest.

Music

During music lessons, the children will be learning about traditional music and songs and start to combine music and art.

PE

Indoor P.E. will help children to develop a range of skills in preparation for sports day. During outdoor lessons, the children will be developing their skills in football.

Homework

Thank you to all the children who have been completing their homework on Google Classroom. This half term, we will continue to set Literacy and Numeracy homework on Google Classroom. Remember, that your child can either edit the work online or send a photo of the work they have completed on paper. This will be accompanied by weekly spellings and reading books. We look forward to seeing the children's work this term.

Assessments

Finally, most of you will know that the children will be taking some assessment tasks this term which will inform the teacher assessments at the end of Year 2. These are kept as 'low-key' as possible and no child will be expected to continue with a task if they are struggling. You can help your child by continuing to support them in their reading, learning of number facts and times tables and by ensuring that they are in school every day.

The Year 2 team are looking forward to exploring these exciting topics with the children!

Should you have any queries, please email on [yr2 @downside-primary.co.uk](mailto:yr2@downside-primary.co.uk) and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Twine
Year 2 Leader