

# Key Stage One Newsletter – Autumn Term 2021.

## **Topic**

Our topic this term is called: An Island Home. It will be initially based on the Katie Morag stories set on the mythical island of Struay. We will be investigating the features of an island. The children will be identifying islands on simple maps and looking at how different human and physical features are represented. We will also use the Lighthouse Keeper stories and hope to make an educational visit to Portland Bill Lighthouse in the Autumn term.

## **English**

Children will continue their phonics learning in groups at an individual level. The reading and spelling of words will be taught through a variety of activities and games using Letters and Sounds. Children will learn new sounds for reading and spelling daily. The children's writing this term will mainly be based on the Katie Morag and Lighthouse keeper stories. We will be using 'Colourful Semantics' to support the teaching of sentence structure and grammar. Colourful semantics is an approach aimed at helping children to develop their grammar but it is rooted in the meaning of words (semantics). Colourful semantics reassembles sentences by splitting them into their grammatical elements and then colour coding them. The approach has 4 key colour coded stages. Punctuation will be taught alongside sentence structure. Guided reading will be taught through a mix of group and whole class activities. Children will continue to read books from a colour band to an adult in school once a week and should read daily at home to an adult (this is homework and a record of this should be made in your child's reading record book). Children will have the opportunity to change their reading books daily in school. It will become the responsibility of the children to change their books independently when needed, however we will remind them initially.

## **Maths**

Each maths session in KS1 will start with a 15 minute Number Sense activity. Number Sense Maths is a scheme of work focused entirely on teaching number facts, providing the structure and depth to learning which children need to achieve fluency in mathematics. The aim of number sense is to systematically raise the profile of number fluency in line with phonics.

Children will follow the White Rose maths scheme. They will learn about: place value, addition and subtraction, Y1 Shape and Y2 Money during the term. At Downlands, we teach maths using the: Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract (CPA) approach. This approach teaches new concepts using physical apparatus and visual aids to build up children's understanding of abstract topics.

## **Foundation Subjects**

Our science themes this term are: seasons with a focus on autumn; materials where the children will name, sort and discuss the properties of a range of everyday materials. In history we will learn about the heroism of Grace Darling and treachery Guy Fawkes and the Gun Powder Plot. Our geography this term will be linked to our topic: we will learn about and name the human and physical features of the mythical Scottish island of Struay and the Hebridean island Coll on which Struay is based. Art/DT this term will commence with a head and shoulders self-portrait and then we will investigate tartan patterns and the craft of weaving. The children will make lighthouses and also learn a range of skills using a variety of media leading up to Christmas. The art will be displayed in the classrooms and some used to create displays for the corridor and hall. In music this term the children will listen to Scottish Pipes and Drums music and learn to play along to the steady beat they can hear. The children will creatively compose music linked to the sea using a variety of percussion instruments as well as singing songs.

## **ICT**

In ICT the children will be starting to learn coding on the iPads through Code.org.

## **PE**

Each week we will have 2 PE lessons – **Monday morning and Wednesday afternoons**. In PE on Monday for the first half term, we have the support of a cricket coach and for the second half we will complete throwing and catching multi-skill activities. In dance, we will follow the BBC's 'Let's move' series linked to our topic and themes across the curriculum. We will also continue with the active mile for as long as weather permits. Please ensure that PE kit is in school every day and is named.

## **RE/PHSE**

The RE theme this term is Christianity (Discovery RE scheme). Based on the questions: 'What did Jesus teach?' and 'Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?'. We will learn the following bible stories that demonstrate kindness: 'The Good Samaritan' and 'Healing the Paralysed Man'. During the Nepalese festival of Dashain will learn about the Hindu Goddess Durga and her victory over evil.

In PHSE we will use the Jigsaw units: Being me in my World for the first half term and Celebrating Difference in the second half. I Can Problem Solve (ICPS) is a whole school scheme that teaches children to solve problems and resolve conflict themselves. This term we will revise the vocabulary and language used.

## **Seesaw online portfolios**

You will have received a QR code to enable you to access your child/ren's portfolio (if you haven't received it or it is lost please ask). We will use this platform to inform you about the learning we will be doing each week, send you messages and reminders and post lots of photographs of your child/ren showing you their learning journey. You can use this platform to message the class teacher too.

## **Homework**

**Reading** at home is homework. Please try to read daily at home (a couple of pages) and record this in the Reading log (record). **Spellings** will be sent home weekly and again need to be practised daily. We do not test spellings weekly but each half term. The spellings sent home will be based on the test and you will get the same words for 2 consecutive weeks. Number Sense fluency activities will be sent home for **Maths** homework during the autumn term.

## **Reminders/Other Information**

If you need to contact the teacher please either email the school via the office: [office@downlandsschool.org](mailto:office@downlandsschool.org) or direct message via the **Seesaw** portfolio. Please note that in KS1, the reading log (record) books will NOT be checked daily for messages as the children will be responsible for changing and recording their new reading book in the log independently, although initially with support.

PE kit should remain in school all week. If taken home for washing it must be back in school Monday morning for PE. Please see uniform policy for PE kit. Plimsolls/pumps/daps are essential for use in the hall, to enable appropriate grip, when using the apparatus. PE kit should be stored in a drawstring PE bag; we do not have room to accommodate backpacks.

KS1 children should not bring backpacks to school, we do not have room for them in our cloakroom area. All children require a book bag and this can be used as a school bag.

Book Bags – Please ensure they are named and if you attach hanging decorations only have ONE small hanging 'keyring'. These decorations get in the way and caught up in the boxes if more are attached.

All children should bring water in a named water bottle. WATER only.

Please ensure all clothing, PE clothing including plimsolls, book bags and bottles are named with the correct name.

**Snacks** a mid-morning snack will be provided by school under the free fruit/veg scheme. If your child/ren would like milk it can be ordered online.

Downlands School has a NO NUT policy – please ensure nut products are not included in pack lunches, this includes items such: as some brands of chocolate spread and muesli bars.

In the event of a COVID related localised lock-down, home learning for KS1 will be provided via the Seesaw online platform.