



Year 5/6 Newsletter Newsletter Autumn 2021

Welcome back to Downlands - we hope that you all have had a restful summer break. We are excited to welcome you all back to school for the start of a brilliant new school year. We are joined in Year 5 and 6 by the amazing Mr Jolliffe who will be Willow classes new teacher. As usual, we will be using Seesaw to share the children's learning with you.

English

This term we will be focusing on sentence structure and embedding their knowledge of colour semantics. This will include the development of sentence structure with subordinate clauses and phrases. We are starting by writing non-chronological reports on a made-up animal inspired by the non-fiction book Flanimals. We will also look at the text 'Who let the Gods Out' which ties in with our history curriculum this term (Ancient Greeks.) From the exploration of this text, children will write a variety of pieces, including a first-person narrative from a specific character's perspective, a narrative which uses dialogue to move the action forward and a myth.

Year 5 writing, spelling and grammar will be taught by Mr Jolliffe and Mrs Robinson will teach Year 6. During the year, children will produce eight assessed pieces of writing, and we will be covering the following genres: poetry, information texts (non-chronological reports), scientific reports, three forms of narrative, a diary, a personal letter and a settings description.. Before writing, children will learn the grammar and structure of each genre. They will then have the opportunity to engage in whole-class writing, shared writing and drama activities before independently producing their final piece.

Reading

To help foster a love of reading and help children build rich and varied vocabularies, we ask that children read three times per week at home with adult support and two other times independently. Please could parents sign their child's reading record to indicate that they have read and include a comment where a discussion has taken place? In your child's reading record, you will see a selection of comprehension questions which link to the key comprehension skill we teach in class. Any opportunity to use these questions when discussing texts with your child will be beneficial. On Mondays, we will collect in children's reading diaries and record the frequency of home reads from the previous week. Children are rewarded for regular reading with smileys.

Spelling

This term we are using a new spelling scheme from 'Ed Shed'. Children will have set spelling lessons per day, where they will practice the spelling rule for the week. They will also bring home a list of spellings that use the spelling rule, in their reading record. Children are encouraged to practice these with their parents at home and to help support this, children can log in to the 'Spelling shed' on any device with internet and play spelling games. Their login will be stuck in the back of their reading records.

Mathematics



Year 6 pupils will be taught by Mr Jolliffe and Mrs Robinson will teach Year 5s. Pre-assessments will be used at the start of each new topic in order to personalise children's learning, and work will be a mixture of concrete, pictorial and abstract activities. Over the course of the autumn term, we will cover the following topics: place value, calculations using the four operations, fractions, decimals and percentages.

We encourage children to practise their times tables on Times Tables Rockstars. Children will also be practising their speed and fluency with their mental calculations with daily early bird maths.

Mathletics can be logged into at home on a PC or tablet/iPad/smartphone and we encourage children to practice the skills they have learnt or work toward their targets.

Science

This term we are studying materials and their properties. Both classes will be taught by Mr Rielly. Children will carry out investigations and develop their scientific thinking skills and vocabulary. We also aim to include elements of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) into our investigations.

Art

In the first week of school, we will be creating 'about me' and Growth Mindset art that ties in with the transition of returning to school. Over the rest of the term, we will focus on art relating to our history topic.

History/Geography

In the first part of the Autumn term, we are focusing on history, in which we are learning about the Ancient Greeks. We will be examining what their daily lives were like, significant figures during this period as well as the conflict between Athens and Sparta. Geography, in the second half of the Autumn term, will cover 'Comparing different geographical places in Europe'.

PE and Games

On a Monday, both Year 5 and Year 6 will be doing football. This will be taught outside, weather permitting, so please make sure your child has sensible footwear. Year 5 will then be looking at dance and focusing on traditional Greek dance, but focusing on group footwork and synchronicity. This will be taught on a Wednesday, indoors. The year six children will be having swim lessons and teamwork skills and games on a Wednesday. Half the year group will have swimming lessons this side of the term and then the second half will be swimming after half term. Children will need to make sure that they come to school dressed for P.E on Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure that your children have an adequately warm PE kit (joggers and jumpers) as they will be playing outside when possible. Ideally, they should have indoor and outdoor trainers (the colour is not important).

Please can all jewellery (including earrings) be left home on PE days and if your child wears a watch/glasses and please provide a named container so they can store these items in safety.

PSHE

In PSHE, at the start of the term, children will learn about [UNICEF's Rights of the Child](#), and together as classes, we will decide on class charters to outline our responsibilities. For RSHE, we will be using a combination of the Jigsaw and 'I Can Problem Solve' schemes of learning which will cover 'Celebrating Differences', 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Being Me in My World'.

Music

Children will learn key musical concepts such as rhythm, pulse, tempo, duration, pitch, volume and tone. Alongside this, they will also be learning how to read and write music. Then using these concepts to create musical compositions.

Homework

Homework will be set weekly and will be based on the children's learning from the week before. We will set homework on a Monday and expect it back completed on a Thursday. This year, children will be given a homework book to stick their assignments in. Each week, they will complete an English, maths and reading task. spellings will also be stuck in this book and children will need access to the internet to practise these spellings on 'Spelling Shed'. If children are unable to access the internet, they can of course practice these by writing them out in their homework book or verbally learning to spell them with an adult. Each piece of homework will be designed to be thirty minutes or less. The children will be encouraged to look at their homework early on in the week and if they feel they need support, tell their teacher. We are more than happy to help children in school if they are stuck. Each term, we will also set a project based on science or humanities learning. The children will be given longer periods of time in which to complete these.

As a reminder, children should no longer be bringing in any stationery/pencil cases from home. All the items will be provided for them.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via seesaw or the school office.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Robinson and Mr Jolliffe