

# ‘Once Upon a Time’

The topic theme for the Autumn term is ‘Once upon a Time’ and we will be using a range of traditional tales: Hansel and Gretel, The Gingerbread Man, Rumpelstiltskin, Peter and the Wolf, Sita and Rama (a Hindu story) and The Nutcracker and the Mouse King.

## English

Children will continue their phonics learning in groups at an individual level. The reading and spelling of words will be taught using the Sounds Write phonics programme. The children’s writing this term will mainly be based on the traditional tales above. 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 cutting them up into their grammatical elements and then colour codes them. The approach has 4 key colour coded stages. Punctuation will be taught alongside sentence structure. For the first half term guided reading will be taught through whole class activities based on traditional tales and focussing on: understanding vocabulary and sequencing text. Small group guided reading sessions will commence after half term. Children will initially continue to read books from a colour band for the first couple of weeks but will transition to reading books matched closely to the phonics sounds they can read linked to the Sounds Write programme. Children read 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 in school and more information about our system for changing books will follow – it will become the responsibility of the children to change their books independently when needed, however we will remind them initially.

## Maths

All children in key stage 1 will follow the White Rose maths scheme. In the Autumn term, children will learn about: place value, addition and subtraction, Y1 Shape, Y2 Money and an introduction to multiplication and division. At Downlands, we teach maths using a: 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.

## Science

Our science theme in the first half term is materials and will link to our topic of traditional tales, comparing, exploring and sorting different materials based on their properties. The children will recreate the story of the three little pigs and predict what will happen to their houses.

## Humanities

In history the children will learn about the use of animals in the first world war and we will visit the Tank Museum at Bovington and the Royal Signals Museum. We will also learn about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot. In geography, we will compare living in Nepal with living in the UK and use atlases and globes to locate and name the continents and oceans.

## **Art/DT**

Art/DT this term will commence with a head and shoulders self-portrait and then we will teach a range of skills using a variety of media based on our topic. The key stage one theme for arts week is Nepal and links with our geography learning this term. The art will be displayed in the classroom and some used to create displays for the corridor and hall. Music is taught following the Charanga primary music scheme.

## **Computing**

In computing this term the children will learn about computing systems and technology around us in the first half term and in the second half term is about digital painting.

## **PE**

Each week we will have 2 PE lessons - **Monday and Wednesday**. Dance on Monday based on traditional tales and autumn themes using the BBC Let's Move programmes and outside ball skills for the first half term and gymnastics inside for the second half term. Please ensure that PE kit is in school every day.

## **RE/PHSE**

The theme in RE this term is Christianity (Discovery RE scheme) based on the creation story and question: Does God want us to look after the world? This theme leads into: giving and receiving gifts and Christmas. In PHSE, we will follow the Jigsaw units: Being me in my World and Celebrating Differences. 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 individualised based on the test and you will often get the same words for 2 consecutive weeks. **Maths** homework will be sent home every 2 weeks via seesaw.

## **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). Please note 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, 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 dance. Please see uniform policy for PE kit. Out-door PE kit (Jogging bottoms and tops) will not be required this term. Plimsolls/pumps/daps are essential for use in the hall, to enable appropriate

grip, especially when using the apparatus. PE kit should be stored in a drawstring PE bag; we do not have room to accommodate backpacks.

KS1 children DO NOT need to 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.