

KS1 Spring Term 2023 Newsletter

Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

The topic theme for the first half of the spring term is our bodies and we will use the texts: Funny Bones, Crazy Charlie and Jim and the Beanstalk to inspire our learning. The themes for the second half of the term are: Fair Trade, London and Easter. During this term each class in KS1 will perform a class assembly linked to the children's learning and parents are welcome to come and watch – details will follow nearer to each event.

English

Children will continue learning their phonics in groups at an individual level. The reading and spelling of words will continue to be taught through the Sounds Write phonics programme. The children's writing this term will mainly be based on the texts and themes above. We will continue to use 'Colourful Semantics' to support the teaching of sentence structure and grammar. We will learn how to extend sentences using conjunctions, adding adjectives to create noun phrases and add interest to our writing. Punctuation will be taught alongside sentence structure. The first half term the children will learn to write stories, letters and instructions. After half term, the children will revisit non-fiction writing. Guided reading will be taught through whole class activities based on understanding vocabulary and sequencing. Children will analyse texts in detail, make predictions and inferences based on what they have read.

Maths

All children in Key Stage 1 will continue to follow the White Rose maths scheme. In the spring term, children following a Year 1 curriculum will learn about: place value to 20 and then to 50, addition and subtraction within 20 and measurement (length, height, mass and volume). The units of work for the children following a Year 2 curriculum are: multiplication, division, properties of shape, money and measurement (length, height, mass, capacity and temperature). At Downlands, we teach maths using the *mastery approach* where children are taught through whole class interactive teaching, enabling all children to master concepts necessary for the next part of the curriculum sequence. In a typical lesson, the teacher leads back and forth interaction, including: questioning, short tasks, explanation, demonstration and discussion, enabling children to think, reason and apply their knowledge to solve problems.

Science

Our science this term is animals including humans. In the first half term the unit is called: *Amazing Me* and the children will look at how their bodies have changed, compare bodies and investigate using their senses. In the second half term the theme is: *Wild and Wonderful Animals*. The children will sort animals into groups, researching information to create an animal diorama and a micro safari with a recorded message.

Humanities

In history, the children will be investigating brave nurses and thinking about what makes them important history figures. Our geography learning will be linked to Fair Trade and the journey of a banana from Columbia to the UK. The children will also discuss what the weather is like in Columbia compared to London and how the weather affects our lives.

Art and Design and Technology (D&T)

In the first half term we will be practising D&T skills linked to the stories we are using in English. The children will use split pins to make a moving Funny Bones character, make clay dentures for a crocodile and design some crazy sunglasses for the giant in *Jim and the Beanstalk*. In art after half term, the children will study the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo and use a variety of techniques and media to recreate their own artworks.

Computing

In the first half term, the children will learn basic coding on the iPads using Scratch Junior. After the half term break, the children will learn about grouping data on a computer.

PE

Each week we will have 2 PE lessons - **Monday and Wednesday**. Dance on Monday uses the BBC *Let's Move* or *Time to Move* programmes and gymnastics following the Get set for PE scheme. The children will build on the gymnastic floor skills learned in the autumn term using the large PE apparatus.

RE/PHSE

RE will be taught using the Discovery RE scheme. The first half term is based on 'Jesus as a friend' through the Stories of Zacchaeus, Stilling the storm, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. After half term, the theme is Easter. Our PHSE topic using Jigsaw is 'Dreams and Goals' for the first half term and 'Healthy Me' for the second half term. I Can Problem Solve (ICPS) will continue weekly and is a whole school scheme that teaches children to solve problems and resolve conflict themselves.

Seesaw online portfolios

We will continue to use this platform to inform you about the learning we will be doing each week, sending you messages and reminders and posting lots of photographs of your child/ren which evidence their learning journey. You can also use this platform to message the class teacher.

Homework

Reading at home is homework. Please try to read daily at home (a couple of pages) and record this in the reading record. **Spellings** will also be sent home weekly and 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 the children will receive the same words for 2 consecutive weeks.

Reminders/Other Information

If you need to **contact the teacher**, please either email the school via the office (office@downlandsschool.org) or direct message via the Seesaw portfolio. Please note that in KS1, the reading 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. Please be advised that Seesaw messenger may only be checked before and after school. Therefore, if you wish to inform us of a change during the day then please ring the office.

PE kit should remain in school all week. If taken home for washing, it must be back in school on 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 recommended for use in the hall in order 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.

All children require a **book bag** and this can be used as a school bag. Please ensure they are named and if you attach decorations then only have ONE small hanging 'keyring'. These decorations get in the way and get caught up in the boxes if more are attached. KS1 children do not need to bring backpacks to school, we do not have room for them in our cloakroom area.

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

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

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** – so please ensure nut products are not included in packed lunches, including items such as chocolate spread and muesli bars.