

## KS1 Summer Term 2023 Newsletter

# 'Fire, Fire'

The themes for the first half of the Summer term will be based on the native American story: *How Rabbit Stole the Fire* and dragon poetry. The themes for the second half of the term are: the Great Fire of London and the Great Fire of Blandford. The Great Fire of London will be introduced through the text: *Vlad and the Great Fire of London* which is a story from the point of view of a flea on a rat.

### English

The skills of reading and spelling will continue to be taught through the Sounds Write phonics programme in school. In order for the children to make progress, it is imperative they practise the skills learnt at school by reading at home every day if possible and completing the spelling practice of the common exception words sent home. Early readers will continue to read either Dandelion or Sounds Write reading books which link to our phonics scheme. Early readers will no longer bring home a colour band book. As children become more proficient readers in Year 2, they will return to the colour bands starting at the purple level (or continue if already reading at this level). Guided reading will be taught through whole class activities based on understanding vocabulary and sequencing. Children will analyse texts in detail, making predictions and inferences based on what they have read. The children's writing this term will mainly be based on the texts and themes above. Our poetry unit will be linked to dragons and diary writing links to the Great Fire of London. We will continue to learn how to extend sentences using conjunctions, add adjectives to create noun phrases and add interest to our writing. Punctuation will be taught alongside sentence structure.

### Maths

All children in Key Stage 1 will continue to follow the White Rose maths scheme. In the summer term, children following a Year 1 curriculum will learn about: multiplication and division, fractions, position and direction, place value to 100, money and time. The units of work for the children following a Year 2 curriculum are: measurement (mass, capacity and temperature), fractions, time, statistics, and position and direction. 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 topics for the summer term are **plants** for the first half and **food chains** for the second half term. The children will observe and describe how plants grow, by exploring outside, preparing tubs for planting potatoes and observing and recording the growth of beans and cress plants from seed. The children will learn about the interdependence between creatures in a food chain, considering what part each plays in its survival and explore the school grounds, looking for examples of food chains.

### Foundation Subjects

In **geography**, we will study our own locality: the school, its grounds and Blandford Camp using observational and field work skills to identify key human and physical features. In **history**, we find out about Samuel Pepys' role in recording the Great Fires of London. We will also learn about the Great Fire of Blandford. The children will compare the two fires and learn about how we know about what happened in the past. As part of this topic we hope to visit Blandford town centre, church and museum in the second half of the summer term. **Art and Design and Technology** will be closely linked to our 'fire, fire' theme. To

start the term we will be producing some native american inspired story paintings focusing on our learning from 'How the Rabbit Stole Fire'. Following that we will create marbled dragon eggs inspired by our dragon poems. After half term we will focus on DT skills. The children will make traditional houses from the great fire of the London era. To end our topic we will be observing a controlled experiment where we recreate the great fire of London and set our DT houses on fire to watch how quickly the fire spreads. **Music** is taught through a mix of activities linked with our texts and the topics from the Charanga primary music scheme. **Computing** is taught following planning from Teach Computing. The children will learn about digital writing in the first half term and programming during the second half.

### **PE**

Each week we will have 2 PE lessons - **Monday and Wednesday**. We will begin to learn some traditional English country dances and also dip into BBC Time to Move programmes where they link with our topics. On Wednesday afternoons we aim to be outside, weather permitting, learning striking and fielding skills for the 1<sup>st</sup> half term and athletics for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half using the Get Set for PE scheme. Please ensure that PE kit is in school every day.

### **RE/PHSE**

RE will be taught using the Discovery RE scheme. The topic for this term is Judaism. In the first half the question is: Is Shabbat important to Jewish children? After half term we will learn about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and why they are important to Jewish children. Our PHSE topic using Jigsaw is 'Relationships' for the first half term and 'Changing 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 photographs of your child/ren which evidence their learning journey.

### **Homework**

**Reading** at home is homework and provides children with the opportunity to practise the skills they have been taught in class. Please try to read daily at home (at least 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 you will usually get 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](mailto: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 01258 453348.

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. 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.