



Key Stage One Newsletter – Autumn Term 2023.

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 shown. We will move on to the Lighthouse Keeper stories and hope to make an educational visit to Portland Bill Lighthouse in the Autumn term.

English

The reading and spelling of words is taught using the Sounds Write phonics programme. Although the teaching of reading skills is taught through the Sounds Write phonics program, for children to make good progress, it is essential to practise the skills taught in school at home reading to an adult for at least ten minutes every day: this is homework and a record of this should be made in your child's reading record book (further information about our new online reading records to follow next week). Children will read to an adult in school at least once every two weeks (further information about a new digital reading record will follow). The children's writing this term will mainly be based on the texts studied. We will use '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 re-assembles 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. Guided reading will be taught through whole class activities focussing on: understanding vocabulary, sequencing text, making predictions and inferences.

Maths

Each key stage one maths session will begin with a fifteen minute 'mastering number' session which focuses on key knowledge and understanding. The sessions are aimed at strengthening the understanding of number and fluency with number facts among children in the first three years of school. Children will follow the White Rose maths scheme. In the Autumn Term, the units of work for the children are: place value, addition, subtraction and shape. At Downlands, we teach maths using the *mastery approach* where children are taught through whole class interactive teaching, using a range of practical apparatus, 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.

Foundation Subjects

Science

In science we use Hamilton mixed-age planning and the themes for this term are everyday materials for the first half term with a topic called 'brilliant builders' and seasonal changes after half term with a topic called 'weather art'.

In our 'busy builders' topic the children will rise to the challenge of fixing a torn umbrella, explore different materials and answer the questions: How can we know that this material will not let the rain through? How can we test it? The children will further investigate the absorbency and waterproofing of materials. In the 'weather art' topic, the children will talk about the four seasons and make a season's collage together, going outside to experience the wind and make a windsock, windmill and bottle wind spinner in the classroom. Also, they will talk about the importance of the sun and design a sundial for the playground. Then, explore shadows using torches and make shadow theatre characters to use with DIY light boxes.

Humanities

Our geography this term, will be linked to our topic. We will learn about what it is like living by the seaside, name the human and physical features of the mythical Scottish island of Struay and the Hebridean island Coll on which Struay is based.

In history, we will discuss what makes a history maker and learn about the heroism of Grace Darling and the treachery of Guy Fawkes and the Gun Powder Plot.

Art/DT

In art this half term we will be doing a weaving unit that links to our topic. We will be busy developing our fine motor skills by learning how to weave using a loom and creating our own placemat. We will start the topic with some outdoor collaborative work by weaving ribbons on fences and through hoops. This skill will then be refined as we build our own loom and construct a placemat inspired by the Isle of Struay.

Music

In music, we will listen to bagpipe music linked to our Katie Morag topic and we are hoping to get a piper into school for the children to listen to and look at bagpipes. Following this, the music will be planned using the 'Sing up' planning with the units: the sea and creepy castle.

Computing

In computing this term, the children will learn about computing systems and technology around us in the first half term before moving on to digital painting.

PE

Each week we will have 2 PE lessons – **Monday morning and Thursday afternoon**. In PE on Monday for the first half term we have the support of a cricket coach and for the second half we will use 'Get set for PE' planning target games. After the half term break, we will do dance and fitness units.

RE/PHSE

The RE theme this term is Christianity (Discovery RE scheme). The learning is based on the questions: What did Jesus teach?; Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time? We will use the following bible stories which 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.

Seesaw online portfolios

You will have received an email link for 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, send you messages and reminders and photographs of your child/ren showing you their learning journey.

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). Information about our new online reading records will follow next week.

Spellings will be sent home weekly (commencing in week 4) 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 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.

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 **which should be stored in a drawstring PE bag**; we do not have room to accommodate backpacks. If your child/ren wear/s shoes or brings trainers for PE with laces, they must be able to tie them independently.

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 PE shoes, 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.