



KS1 Summer Term 2024 Newsletter

The theme for the first half of the Summer term will be based on great explorers. The theme for the second half of the term is: Where does our food come from?

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. As readers become more proficient in Year 2, they will read from the colour band books starting at the purple 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 or listened to. The children's writing this term will mainly be based on the texts and themes linked to our topics. Our poetry unit will be linked to minibests. 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 within 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 – art and nature** for the first half term and **habitats and homes** for the second half term. The children will Investigate and sort materials according to where they came from. They will also: learn all about materials that come from plants; find flowers outside in the playground and sketch them; make a large model of the inside of a flower using junk modelling materials; explore outside by doing bark and leaf rubbings. In the second half of the term, the children will learn about: allotments; make bird-scaring sculptures; visit a farm; explore farming with small world play and in groups; design a bug hotel and build it.

Foundation Subjects

In **history**, the children will learn about the exploits of a range of famous explorers and to develop their knowledge of people's lives at various points in the past, ranging from 16th century Europe to the 1930s in Britain and the 1960s in America. The children will reflect on the qualities successful explorers need, and to draw on what they have learned about the achievements of Ranulph Fiennes, Amy Johnson, Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong to consider future exploration to Mars. In **geography**, the children will learn about why there are so many dairy farms in Devon compared with the rest of the United Kingdom. The investigation then introduces pupils to fruits that we are unable to grow in the United Kingdom for climatic reasons. The children will learn about banana growing, harvesting, packing and export in Costa Rica. Throughout the enquiry there are opportunities to enrich the pupils' experience and consolidate their understanding by undertaking local fieldwork investigation to a local farm which links with our science topic.

Design and Technology

This half term, the children will be designing and making their own moving pictures based on our 'Great Explorers' unit. The children will be learning how to make paper sliding mechanisms, split pin movements and wheel movements. They will then evaluate the different techniques and designs and choose one to make a final product. In the second half of summer term, the children will be making fruit kebabs linking to our 'Farm to Fork' unit. The children will learn to identify the different food groups and learn how to safely cut fruit before designing, making and evaluating their own fruit kebab.

Music is taught through the Sing Up music scheme. In music lessons, the children will: create musical phrases from word rhythms that children invent; compose new words for the greeting section of a song; sing a call-and-response song and play the response sections on tuned percussion; play untuned percussion instruments; use movement to show the beat changing and perform a song and move in time to the music.

Computing is taught following planning from Teach Computing. The children will learn about digital writing in the first half term. In this unit, the children will develop their understanding of the various aspects of using a computer to create and manipulate text. They will become more familiar with using a keyboard and mouse to enter and remove text. In the second half of the term, children will learn about programming. In this unit, the children will be introduced to on-screen programming through Scratch Jr. Learners will explore the way a project looks by investigating sprites and backgrounds. They will use programming blocks to use, modify, and create programs.

PE

Each week we will have 2 PE lessons using the Get Set for PE scheme – **Monday morning and Thursday afternoon**. On Monday, the children will learn ball skills and on Thursday invasion games for the 1st half term and country dancing skills and athletics for the 2nd half using the Get Set for PE scheme. We aim to be outside weather permitting. We will be learning some traditional English country dances for the Downlands dance festival at the end of term. Please ensure that PE kit is in school every day and please continue to remember to remove earrings or cover them for our PE days.

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 PSHE topic using Jigsaw is 'Relationships' for the first half term and 'Changing Me' for the second half term.

Seesaw online portfolios

We will continue to use this platform to send you messages and post photographs of your child/ren's 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 school during the school day, please either ring the office 01258 453348 or email office@downlandsschool.org. Messages can also be passed to staff on the door at drop off in the morning or to the teachers at the end of the day. Please do not write messages in the green reading record log book as this is not likely to be seen daily.

PE kit should remain in school all week. If taken home for washing, it must be back in school on Monday morning. Please see uniform policy for PE kit. Out-door PE kit (jogging bottoms and tops) will not be required. 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.