



Key Stage One Newsletter – Autumn Term 2024.

Welcome to Key Stage One at Downlands School. Key Stage One consists of two mixed Year 1 and Year 2 classes: Ash and Fir. The teachers in Key Stage One are Miss Burch (Ash) and Miss Alston (Fir), who are supported by Mrs Le May (Key stage one lead) and Teaching Assistants Mrs Montgomery, Mrs Hampson and Mrs Mead. We would like to use this newsletter to share the wonderful learning opportunities we have planned for your children this term.

Topic

Our topics this term are: 'The Great Animals' and 'Happily Everest After'. The first half of Autumn term will be based on the history topic of 'The Great Animals' - exploring how animals helped during World War I - particularly horses and messenger pigeons. After half term, the children will be looking at the country of Nepal, learning about and identifying similarities and differences between Nepal and England.

English

The reading and spelling of words is taught using the Sounds Write phonics programme. In Key Stage 1, the children will continue to build on their previous phonics knowledge. In Year 1, the children are introduced to the 'extended code' where they further develop their knowledge that sounds can be represented by more than one spelling, and also that one spelling can represent more than one sound. This is built on in Year 2 and the children are introduced to further spellings of familiar sounds, as well as learning to read more complex polysyllabic words, fluently.

Guided reading will be taught through whole class activities focussing on: understanding vocabulary, sequencing text, making predictions and inferences. The Year 1 children will learn to decode their Sounds Write reading book in school, during guided reading, before taking it home on a Friday to read and further practise their skills. At Downlands, we want children to develop a love of reading and hope you share this with us. As well as reading at home to practise the skills taught in school, we encourage and hope the children will have opportunities to read for pleasure. In school, we have regular access to our library, where the children can take home a book of their choice to share with you.

The children's writing this term will mainly be based on traditional tales. The first half term will focus on 'The three little pigs' and 'Goldilocks and the three bears', and during the second half term the children will look at traditional tales with a twist! The children will continue to apply their growing phonic knowledge to their writing. 'Colourful Semantics' is used to support the teaching of sentence structure and grammar. The approach is aimed at helping children to develop their grammar, rooted in the meaning of words (semantics). Punctuation will be taught alongside sentence structure.

Maths

At Downlands, we teach maths using the *mastery approach*, where children are taught through whole class interactive teaching, using a range of practical apparatus. The approach aims to enable all children to become masters of the basic principles needed in maths, to develop fluency and understanding of the more complex concepts. During a typical maths lesson, the teacher leads back and forth interaction, including: questioning, short tasks, explanation, demonstration and discussion, allowing children to think, reason and apply their knowledge to solve problems. Each maths lesson begins with a fifteen minute 'mastering number' session which focuses on embedding and practising key knowledge. The

sessions are aimed at strengthening the understanding of number and fluency for children in the first three years of school. Alongside mastering number, the children are taught through the White Rose maths scheme. In the Autumn Term, the units of work for the children in Year 1 are: place value, addition, subtraction and shape; and in Year 2: place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and money.

Foundation Subjects

Science

Our science topics 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 'wild weather'.

In our 'brilliant builders' topic, the children will explore a variety of materials and their properties, culminating in them building their own house for the three little pigs using alternative materials to those in the story. In the 'wild weather' topic, the children will think about the weather in their local environment using forecasts to make their own school weather forecast for the week. We will be looking at how our shadows change across the day and use chalk to track these changes and draw conclusions. The children will also be using their senses, whilst outside, to observe the seasons and the changes that occur.

Humanities

Our history this term is linked to our topic of 'The great animals'. We will be exploring how animals helped during World War I - particularly horses and messenger pigeons. We will be comparing methods of communication during the time of World War I and now: we are hoping to have a visit from a present day communications expert! The children will also look at how life was different for children during the war, compared with life now. In geography, the children will learn about and identify similarities and differences between Nepal and England, as well as looking and comparing the climate and learning key geographical features of the two countries.

Art/DT

In DT this term, the children will be creating their own moving pictures linked to traditional tales. In the second half of the Autumn term, the whole school will be taking part in Arts Week where the children will use a variety of skills and techniques, produce a number of pieces of artwork and learn about local artists.

Music

In Music, the children are following the "Sing Up!" programme. During the first half term the children will learn a song called 'Tony Chestnut'. They will learn some musical notes and develop their knowledge skills in order to perform a 'cuckoo call'. After half term the children will sing and play instruments as part of a group and begin to learn songs in preparation for their Christmas performance!

Computing

In computing this term, the children will learn about computing systems and technology before moving on to digital painting. In our 'systems and technology' unit, the children will identify the parts of a computer and develop an understanding of what information technology (IT) is. In our 'digital painting' unit, pupils will develop their understanding of the various aspects of using a computer to create and manipulate text. They will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using computers compared to writing.

PE

Each week we will have 2 PE lessons – Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon. During the first half term we are fortunate to have the expertise of a cricket coach and for the second half we will be developing our skills through target games. After half term, we will be moving onto dance and fitness units.

We ask, for health and safety reasons, that earrings are removed before school on PE days. If your child's earrings cannot be removed then please tape their earrings before coming to school on a Monday and Tuesday.

RE/PHSE

The RE theme this term is Christianity following the Discovery RE scheme. We will be learning to retell the Christian Creation story and to explore how this influences how Christians behave towards nature and the environment.

In PHSE, we follow the Jigsaw programme and will be looking at the topics: 'Being me in my World' for the first half term and 'Celebrating Difference' in the second half.

Areas of provision and outdoor learning

We are extremely lucky to have space this year, both inside and outside, to provide more opportunities for child-led learning, alongside the direct teacher-led learning. This provision is carefully planned to enhance and embed the skills the children are taught, across all subjects. Challenges will be set up for the children to access both independently, and with adult support and guidance, thus allowing the children to explore and develop their knowledge and understanding.

Forest School

Children in KS1 will have at least one Forest School session a fortnight. Forest School is an opportunity for children to explore the natural world whilst building on their skills of resilience, confidence, risk-taking and adventure. Children will be expected to wear the correct Forest School clothes for sessions and more details have been shared on Seesaw. Our Forest School area is on the school site.

Seesaw

We use this platform to share milestone moments with you, along with photographs of some of your children's learning. We also use the platform to share relevant information with you, including reminders and accident notes. Please let us know if you have any problems accessing Seesaw.

Homework

Reading - please continue to read regularly with your child at home and record this in the reading record.

One piece of either maths or English - this will often be a practical task to support and consolidate the learning that is taking place in school.

Other Information

Please remember that any messages such as absences, holidays, illness etc. are phoned in via the school office (01258 453348).

Other events to watch out for this term:

- * Garrison Halloween/Bonfire Night
- * Harvest Festival
- * Christmas Fayre
- * KS1 Christmas Nativity
- * End of term Christmas Service

Please contact us if you have any questions.

KS1 Team