



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: Oak and Fir. The teachers in Key Stage One are Mrs Le May (Key stage one lead and Oak class teacher) and Mrs Legg and Mrs Jones (Fir class teachers). The teachers are supported by Teaching Assistants Mrs Montgomery, Mrs Hampson and Miss Harris. We would like to share with you, in this newsletter, the wonderful learning opportunities we have planned for your children this term.

Topic

Our topics this term are: 'Why do I love to be beside the seaside?' and 'Darling put the fire out'.

The first half of Autumn term will be based on the geography topic of 'Why do I love to be beside the seaside?' - exploring the differences between coastal, rural and urban areas before focussing on coastal life through the story 'Sally and the limpet'. After half term the children will be looking at great history makers and how they have made an impact.

English

The reading and spelling of words is taught using the Sounds Write phonics programme. In Key Stage 1, the children 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. During guided reading in Year 1, the children will focus on their Sounds Write reading book, in groups with an adult. They will read the book 3 times, starting with decoding, then building up fluency and comprehension, before taking it home on a Friday to read and further practise these skills. In Year 2, guided reading will be taught through the three read model where the children share a text a week focussing on: word reading and vocabulary, reading with fluency and prosody, then reading for fluency and comprehension. At Downlands, we want children to develop a love of reading and we hope that you share this ambition with us. 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, by reading to an adult regularly. A record of this should be made in your child's reading record book. As well as reading at home to practise the skills taught in school, we encourage that 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, as well as the opportunity for you to accompany your child to the library in the mornings before the start of the school day.

The children's writing this term will mainly be based on fictional seaside texts. The first half term will focus on 'What the ladybird heard at the seaside' and 'Sally and the limpet', and during the second half term the children will look at stories about lighthouses, as well as the gunpowder plot and the Christmas Nativity story. The children will continue to apply their growing phonic knowledge to their writing and 'Colourful Semantics' is used 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). 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, enabling 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; enabling children to think, reason and apply their knowledge to solve problems. Each key stage one maths lesson begins with a ten 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 topic this term is 'material world'. The children will explore a variety of materials and their properties, they will have the opportunity to make their own 'That's not my...' books, using a variety of materials of their choice. After half term, they will use their knowledge of material properties to make waterproof shelters for a rainy day at the beach as well as their own boats.

Humanities

Our geography this term is linked to our topic of 'Why do I love to be beside the seaside?'. We will be exploring how the seaside is different from other places, how people enjoy themselves at the seaside, as well as the impact people have on the beach. The children will also look at continents and countries and then more particularly at our region of South West England, through the book 'Sally and the Limpet'. In history, the children will learn about great history makers including the work of Grace Darling where we will hopefully also have a visit from the RNLI. The children will then build on their knowledge of the gunpowder plot and the history maker Guy Fokes, before they consider the question: How would you like to be remembered as a history maker?

Art/DT

In Art this term the children will be focussing on the skill of weaving, they will weave with a variety of materials and have a go at their own weaving project of making a small beachbag or place mat. In the second half of the Autumn term the whole school will be taking part in Arts Week where the children will develop and use a variety of skills and techniques, produce a number of pieces of artwork and learn about local artists.

Music

In Music, we follow the "Sing Up!" programme. During the first half term, the children will learn a song called 'Menu song': they will copy a leader in a call and response song and create a theatrical group performance using kitchen-themed props. After half term, the children will perform 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 parts of a computer, developing their keyboard and mouse skills. They will look at technology around us, how IT improves our world and the importance of using IT responsibly and safely. During the second half term, the children will develop their understanding of a range of tools used for digital painting. They will then use these tools to create their own digital paintings, while gaining inspiration from a range of artists' work.

PE

Each week we will have 2 PE lessons – **Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning**. During the first half term, children will learn defending and attacking principles, throwing, catching, and striking skills, and develop respect and communication skills for small-sided games, including cricket and rounders. They will also learn the principles of defending and attacking in target games, using underarm and overarm actions. They learn to self-manage activities, follow rules, score points, and use simple tactics. 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 Wednesday and Thursday.

RE/PSHE

The RE theme this term is Christianity following the Jigsaw RE scheme. We will be learning to re-tell the Christian Creation story and to explore how this influences how Christians behave towards nature and the environment. After half term we will reflect on the Christmas story and decide what gifts would be meaningful for Jesus.

In PSHE, 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

The children will have continuous access, both inside and outside, to opportunities for child-led learning, alongside direct teacher-led learning. This provision is carefully planned to enhance and embed the skills the children are taught, across all national curriculum subjects, whilst allowing the children to continue to develop their independence. 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 deepen their learning through revisiting concepts, applying their knowledge and extending their thinking.

Forest School

Children in KS1 will have at least one Forest School session a fortnight. Our Forest School area is on the school site and provides the children with opportunities to improve their physical health, developing motor skills, boosting confidence and self-esteem, and fostering emotional well-being through supervised, child-led exploration and risk-taking in a safe natural environment. The sessions also enhance social skills, environmental awareness and problem-solving skills. Children will be expected to wear the correct Forest School clothes for sessions and more details will be shared on Seesaw.

Seesaw

We use Seesaw to share milestone moments with you, along with photographs of some of your children's learning. We will 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 their 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 children in KS1 need:

- a water bottle with plain water only - please talk to us if your child needs to bring in anything other than water
- bookbag (please keep any keyrings on bookbags limited to one small keyring)
- PE kit in a drawstring bag (see uniform policy)
- a lunch box (if they are not having hot school meals)

Please note children in KS1 should not bring in backpacks.

Any messages such as absences, holidays, illness etc. should be communicated via the school office (01258453348).

Other events to watch out for this term:

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| * Garrison Bonfire Night | * Harvest Festival | * Christmas Fayre |
| * KS1 Christmas Nativity | * Arts Week | * End of term Christmas Service |

Please speak to any member of the team if you have any queries.

KS1 Team