



## Key Stage One Newsletter – Summer Term 2026.

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 Miss Bryant (Fir class teachers). The teachers are supported by Teaching Assistants Mrs Montgomery and Mrs Hampson. 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: 'It's pasture bedtime' and 'On the road again'. The first half of Summer term will be based on the geography topic of 'It's pasture bedtime' - exploring the big question: 'Where does our food come from?' After half term, the children will be looking at famous explorers like Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong.

### 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 this term, the children will further build on their knowledge of the 'extended code', recognising and accurately using sounds that are represented by more than one spelling, and spellings that represent more than one sound. The children will also take the phonics screening check in the week beginning 8th June. In Year 2, the children will consolidate and extend their knowledge of further spellings of familiar sounds, as well as continuing to build on their fluency when reading more complex polysyllabic words.

Guided reading continues to be taught through whole class activities focussing on: understanding vocabulary, sequencing text, making predictions and inferences. The Year 1 children will follow the same structure they are familiar with by decoding their Sounds Write reading book in school, during guided reading in groups with an adult, before taking it home on a Thursday to read and further practise their skills. At Downlands, we want children to develop a love of reading and hope you share this ambition 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 focus on some elements of non-fiction when writing a recount about our school trip to a local farm, as well as producing a leaflet about sustainable food. During the second half of the term the children will be taught the features of informal language through writing a diary entry from the perspective of a great explorer. The genre specific grammar and punctuation skills which the children need to use is taught as part of the sequence of lessons throughout the term, and the children will continue to apply their growing phonic knowledge to their writing, through word building and focussing on simple sentence structure and letter formation.

## **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 Summer Term, the units of work for the children in Year 1 are: multiplication & division, fractions, position & direction, place value (within 100), money and time; and in Year 2: fractions, time, statistics and position and direction.

## **Foundation Subjects**

### **Science**

Our science topic this term is 'Animals, The Human Body and Staying Healthy'. The children will describe the importance of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and maintaining hygiene for human health. They will identify and name a variety of animals, including carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores, and learn about the basic parts of the human body, including which part is associated with each sense. The children will observe that animals, including humans, have offspring that grow into adults. As part of our science and humanities topics this term the children will be visiting a local farm during the first half term followed by a trip to 'Monkey World' after half term. (further details will follow)

### **Humanities**

Our geography learning this term is linked to the topic of 'It's pasture bedtime'. The children will be finding out about where our food comes from and answering the question: 'Why does it matter where our food comes from?' They will use the context of farming as a tool to investigate how people interact and are interdependent with the environments that surround them. They will explore concepts such as location, distribution, economic activity and trade. They will also reflect on why locally sourced food and free-ranged production are considered environmentally friendly and sustainable. We will be visiting a local farm to help us with this enquiry.

In history, the children will learn about the lives and achievements of famous explorers: Ranulph Fiennes, Amy Johnson, Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. They will then consider what it takes to be a great explorer and whether or not they could one day be one themselves.

### **Art/DT**

DT this term will link to our science and humanities learning. During the first half of the term, children will look at what the different food groups are, and discuss how each of these are essential to our wellbeing. Pupils will then practise their cutting skills involving food, before designing, making and evaluating their own fruit kebab. After half term, the children will look at pre-existing moving pictures and explore how these have been made, practising the techniques such as sliders, split pin movement and being able to push and pull. They will then design, make and evaluate their own moving picture based on a scene from a famous explorer they have been learning about, choosing a particular technique to focus on.

## **Music**

In Music, the children are following the "Sing Up!" programme. During the first half of summer term the children will create musical phrases from new word rhythms that they invent. They will sing as part of a call-and-response song and play the response sections on tuned percussion using the correct beater hold. During the second half of the term, the children will learn about a 'jig' and compose new words for the greeting section of the song. They will perform a song and dance simultaneously. Children will also be taking part in our annual Downlands dance festival where they will learn and perform a dance in time to music.

## **Computing**

This term, 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. During the second half of this term, pupils will be introduced to on-screen programming through Scratch Jr. They will explore the way a project looks by investigating sprites and backgrounds. They will use programming blocks to use, modify, and create programs. Pupils will also be introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.

## **PE**

Each week we will continue to have 2 PE lessons – Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. During the first half of Summer term we will be focussing on ball skills and invasion games. In ball skills, the children will focus on developing fundamental ball skills like throwing, catching, rolling, hitting, dribbling, and kicking, enhancing control, accuracy, coordination, and balance through independent, pair, and small group work. In invasion games, the children will take part in games that involve playing against each other, such as football, handball, rugby, netball, basketball, and hockey. Students develop skills like attacking, defending, and possession, while playing uneven and even-sided games, learning to score points and follow rules. After half term we will move on to preparing the children for two of our annual sporting summer events - sports day and Downlands dance festival. The children will develop their athletic skills through running, jumping, and throwing, allowing them to work collaboratively and independently, and identify strengths and areas for improvement. The children will also learn 2 dances in preparation for their performance at the dance festival.

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 Judaism. The children will be learning about Shabbat and 'Prayer and worship', thinking about the questions: 'Is Shabbat important to Jewish children?' and 'Does visiting the synagogue help Jewish children feel closer to God?'

In PSHE, we follow the Jigsaw programme and will be looking at the topics: 'Relationships' for the first half term, where the children will explore diverse families, respect physical boundaries, navigate friendship and conflict, understand secrets and trust, and express appreciation for meaningful relationships. During the second half term the topic is 'Changing me'. Children will learn about life cycles, growing older, increasing independence, body differences with correct terminology and developing assertiveness. The children will also look at skills for coping with change as they prepare for the transition into the next year group.

## **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 progressive throughout the year and 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. Enhancements are 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 continue to 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** - where we feel this would be beneficial and this will usually be a practical task to support and consolidate the learning that is taking place in school.

### **Other Information**

Events to look forward to this term include:

- KS1 trip to Charisworth farm - 21st April 2026
- Trip to monkey world - 17th June 2026
- Transition morning to get to know new classrooms/teachers (Date TBC)
- Downlands Dance Festival (Monday 20th July)
- House Sports Day (Tuesday 16th June)
- Summer Fair (Friday 17th July)
- End of year Garrison Church service (Tuesday 21st July, 1100hrs)

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

Please contact us if you have any questions.

KS1 Team