



The Downley School

“Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together”

October 2022



Interim Head Teacher's Comment

It is hard to believe it is already half term! A lot has been achieved during the last 7 weeks and Mrs Best and I feel firmly part of the Downley family thanks to the warm welcome we have received. Thank you to the whole school community for your support and commitment by working with us to continue the journey of improvement.

We particularly wanted to thank the number of parents and other relatives who have attended school events this term – celebration assembly, the SEND meeting held yesterday and the drop in open afternoon. There was a buzz around the school and the children were very excited to be able to invite their families into school. We have planned these for each half term and hope to see you at the next one on Tuesday 6th December!

In terms of school development, we have purchased new phonics resources to complement our chosen phonics programme *Little Wandle*. Staff have received updated safeguarding training and are busy evaluating the provision for SEND pupils and updating SEND support plans for parents evening shortly after half term.

There is a buzz around the school today as children (and staff) look forward to the end of the day and the half term holiday. We hope you and your families enjoy a restful, fun break and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 31st October.

Miss Garlick & Mrs Best,
Interim Headteachers

Reception

This month in Reception, the children have enjoyed exploring all our Autumn textures and colours. They have enjoyed making repeating patterns, sorting all the leaves and conkers, and exploring all the Autumn treasures brought in.

We started with our phonics programme and have learnt the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n, m and d. We have had a great deal of fun thinking of all the words that start with those sounds. We have explored rhyming words too with lots of stories and fun activities. **Please try this at home over the half term break...**

We used vegetables and paint to make repeating patterns and have enjoyed making all sorts of creations. 'More and fewer' were done over the last 2 weeks, with lots of interactive games and practice.

A few learners were asked about their favourite thing they have done this week, the answers were as follows:

- "Playing with Max with the dressing up stuff." ~ Maggie
- "When I was playing with Yusuf on the climbing frame." ~ Izzy
- "Puzzles with Archie!" ~ Connor C
- "Jumping in the puddles!" ~ Yusuf

Have a great half term!

Year 1

We have continued to impress us with their amazing attitudes towards learning. Well done to our most recent 'Stars of the Week' and 'Tom Cup' winner!



In English, we have finished our Lost and Found text and used this as a model text for writing our own versions using different animals! We have also looked at non-fiction texts about penguins and the different ways we can represent information.

Our new Little Wandle phonics scheme has begun, and we have been enjoying interactive phonics sessions using mini-whiteboards to ensure that everyone makes progress. Remember to use the 'for parents' section of the website to find out more about supporting your child with recognising graphemes, pronunciation of the graphemes and for tips on blending, segmenting and tricky words.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



We have continued our topic on number in maths. We have used concrete objects, such as conkers, to explore different ways of making numbers using part-whole models. The current focus is consolidating and deepening the children's understanding of numbers within 10, so that they are able to apply their knowledge when dealing with larger numbers. Explore different language related to addition (e.g. add, plus, found, more) and subtraction (e.g. take away, lost, ate) within real-life problems such as the one below:

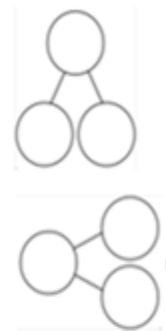
Zak had 7 acorns and found 2 more. How many acorns does he have now?

Deepen: Can you complete a part-whole model to show this?

Write 4 number sentences to go with your part whole model.

Draw a part-whole model and make up your own real-life problem to go with it.

In our science lessons, we are beginning to explore every day materials – perhaps you could go on a hunt and take some pictures or make a collection of objects made from the same material?



In PE the children have explored 1, 2, 3 and 4-point balances and combined these using smooth transitions – ask your child to demonstrate and ensure that they can hold each balance for 5, 7 or 9 seconds.

Our RE topic has been exploring belonging. We have looked at the groups we belong to, how we are similar and different and also special celebrations and symbols / objects within different religions. We have been amazed at the thoughtful questions the children have been asking.

Celebrating achievements – if your child has received an award, certificate or medal for an extra-curricular activity, please send these in so that we can celebrate these important achievements in our Friday assembly. Your class teacher will let you know the dates of the KS1 Celebration assemblies.



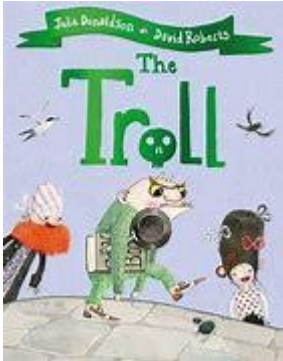
Please continue to use the Class Dojo for any questions or messages that are not urgent and the office email for messages regarding absence or if a response is required on the same day. Thank you!

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

Year 2 have continued to show a very enthusiastic and hardworking attitude towards their learning this term. They have been working extremely hard at becoming more independent in their learning and become more confident when working as part of a team.

In English, the children have been reading 'The Troll' by Julia Donaldson. This week they had to pretend that they were pirates and trolls and wrote postcards to show what life was like as these characters. The children have been working hard and made huge improvements in their use of full stops, capital letters and finger spaces in their writing.



In maths, the children have been practicing adding and subtracting along a number line. They have challenged themselves to find missing numbers in simple addition and subtraction calculations.

In PSHE, the children have been learning about different emotions. They also discussed how we can show good manners in different situations such as while eating lunch and on the playground. Can the children share with you how they can show good manners in the classroom?

In science, we have been learning about life cycles. The children had to draw the life cycle of different animals. We were impressed at how much knowledge the children had about different animals and the enthusiasm they show when learning about science.

In PE, we have been working very hard at improving our catching and throwing skills. It would be great if you help your children practice even more over half-term.

We are enormously proud of what the children have produced so far this year. They have worked very hard this term and we hope they have a well-deserved rest during half term.

Year 3

Year 3

We have been investigating rocks, how they are made and their importance in History.

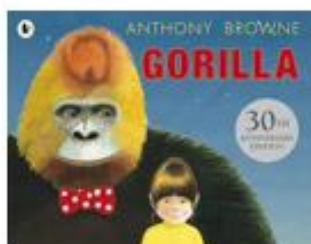
We have been using biscuits, sweets and chocolate to represent the different types of rocks which we created ourselves.



We have also been learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age and how these three different ages used different materials to make tools and weapons. We also understand that flint, which is a local stone has been used to build houses in Downley and the surrounding area.



Year 4



We can't believe how quickly this half-term has gone by and we continue to be very proud of every child in the year group as they continue to develop their readiness and resilience to learn. The children have enjoyed exploring the variety of animal stories in our guided reading text. This month we have been exploring inference skills



which is always a good skill to work on when reading with your child.

We were delighted to see many of you at the 'Book Look' this week and hope you found it useful to see how your child is getting on in class.

In Maths, we have been mastering our skills with 4 digit addition and subtraction and making progress with regular practice of our times tables.



Hopefully, from the photos and videos you have seen how the children have been enjoying body percussion, tag rugby, junk modelling in science and developing their coding skills with scratch. In RE, we have been exploring the importance of sacred texts in various religions and role playing to understand the challenges faces by the communities under The Romans.

In music, we enjoyed exploring body percussion and creating rainforest sounds.



Thank you for everyone's continued viewings and likes on Class Dojo. It is sometimes challenging to be taking videos/pictures whilst teaching but hopefully it gives you an insight into our learning and may generate some fun conversations at mealtimes! Just a reminder to look out for our school trip form to complete for Wednesday 30th November to the Verulamium Museum, St Albans.

Thank you and have a great half-term.

Mr. Dollemore & Mrs. Fyfe

Year 5

Well done to Year 5 on an incredibly positive term and start to your year. Your teachers are immensely proud of the effort you are showing and the work you are producing, it is so important that you continue to maintain this attitude towards your learning for the rest of the year.

5MW and 5L have had lots going on in our classrooms! We have been working hard in maths, learning some key strategies when working with numbers up to 1,000,000, rounding, partitioning, and converting numbers to words and vice versa. We have used models such as place value grids and number lines to help us with this. We are looking forward to the beginning of the next half term, our topics will include addition and subtraction strategies, as well as working with diverse types of graphs. We have also been enjoying some healthy times tables competition between classes every Thursday!

In English we have been busy! Our '*Queen of the Falls*' text, by Chris Van Allsburg is a fan favourite amongst Year 5. This gripping story about Annie Edson Taylor, self-proclaimed daredevil has had us right on the edge of our seats and has formed our writing unit for this term. Working on first and third person recounts and writing purposely for a particular audience. We have continued reading '*Goodnight Stories for Rebel girls*' in guided reading, learning about inspiration women across the world. Our focus has been linking themes across texts and answering inference-based questions, being able to justify our responses with evidence. This has linked nicely with Black history month as we have learnt about some remarkable women of colour.

In Science, we are learning about '*Living things in their natural habitats*' with a focus on the life cycles of different species, focusing on the using key words in our answers to explain each cycle. We have been playing a variety of sports and games in PE, with a big focus on strategy, teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship. This will be a continuous work on for Year 5 all year, as these skills are just as important to learn as physical and game skills.

Potential dinner table conversations:

- Explain the lifecycle of a bird, mammal, or butterfly.**
- Encourage your child to summarise the key events from the '*Queen of the Falls*' text.**

Well done Year 5 on a positive half term!

Mrs Murrill and Mr Langton



Year 6

What a fantastic end to the first term in Year 6! The children have been working incredibly hard, being creative and collaborative in the classroom. Thank you to our Year 6s for all the wonderful work they are doing as leaders and prefects, putting their own ideas into action.

Our Year 6 Student Leaders will tell you more about what they have enjoyed.



Hi, we are the Year 6 Student Leaders. We have been busy, and we are enjoying our duties so far and have especially enjoyed helping on the lower and upper playground.

Maths

During our exhilarant maths lessons, we have been learning all about how to divide using factors, factors, prime numbers, long division & multiples.

On the first day of long division some of us struggled, but the different techniques and going through the questions over and over again have made us a lot more confident.



Long division



Star of Fear, Star of Hope
Guided Reading/Drama

English

We have been learning about descriptive writing, and writing spooky ghost stories and diary entries, associated with our Quality Central Text called 'Star of Fear, Star of Hope'. We had so many good ideas and our teachers were impressed with the features we used, such as expanded noun phrases and figurative language.

So far in Year 6, there are quite a lot of fun lessons that we could say were our favourite, but we really loved making our Black History Month posters.

Opportunities to Discover

activesport

Holiday Camps

Multi Sports Camp

West Wycombe School

Age Group : 5-11 year olds

Dates : Mon 24th Oct -

Fri 28th Oct

Times : 08:45-3:15 Pm

£25 a Day with discounts for full
course bookings

book at www.Active-sport.co.uk





ALL THINGS COSTUME

TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER

10:30-12:30 AND 13:30-15:30

NATIONAL PARALYMPIC HERITAGE CENTRE

Join us as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the London 2012 Paralympic Games!

During this interactive session, we will be exploring all things costume from London 2012. Try on costumes worn during the opening and closing ceremonies, and be inspired to design or colour your own costume.



This session is designed for children aged 6-10.

National Paralympic Heritage Centre, Stoke Mandeville Stadium,
Guttmann Road, Aylesbury, HP21 9PP www.paralympicheritage.org.uk



NPHT
NATIONAL PARALYMPIC
HERITAGE TRUST



**HERITAGE
FUND**





THE PERFECT HALF-TERM HALLOWEEN TREAT

This October half-term, take your children on a trip back in time as they discover a world of witches, wizards, magic and mystery.

In Ancient Britain, Magical Merlin is the most miraculous wizard ever. So when the baby King Arthur is born and jealous older sister, Morgan Le Fay, starts turning people into animals, it's down to Merlin to save the day.

Teaming up with brave Sir Lancelot and beautiful Princess Guinevere, the adventurers ride a fire-breathing dragon to The Lady Of The Lake to discover where true power lies. But can they get back to Tintagel Castle before Morgan turns the baby Arthur into a hamster?

With a spellbinding mix of magic, songs and dancing, *Magical Merlin* is a spectacular mini-musical sure to enchant the whole family.

SHOW DATES AND TIMES

Monday 24th October
2pm and 4pm

Tuesday 25th October
11am

Wednesday 26th October
11am, 1.30pm and 4pm

Thursday 27th October
11am

Friday 28th October
11am, 1.30pm and 4pm

Saturday 29th October
10am and 12.30pm

Sunday 30th October
10am, 12 noon, 2.30pm and 4.30pm



24 - 30 OCTOBER 2022 THE FORTUNE THEATRE

Russell Street, London WC2B 5HH

To book tickets visit

atgtickets.com

Find out more at

magicalmerlin.show

For Access bookings, please call 0800 912 6971





October Holiday Gymnastics and Trampolining Camps

During the October Half Term we will be running some fun and action-packed gymnastics and trampolining holiday camp days for ages 4 – 11 years, with the option for half or full days.

Please visit our website www.springbucks.co.uk and click on the Holiday Camp section for more details on how to book in via our website shop.

VENUES: Hazlemere Youth Centre, Rose Avenue, HP15 7UB
Court Garden Leisure Centre, Pound Lane, Marlow, SL7 2AE

DATES: Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th at Hazlemere Youth Centre
and Thursday 27th October at Court Garden

PRICE: £16.00 for a half day (9am – 12 or 1 – 4pm)
£35.00 for a full day (9.00am – 4.00pm)

**BOOKINGS ARE FILLING UP FAST SO BOOK IN
ASAP TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**



What's On October Half Term

WYCOMBE
MUSEUM

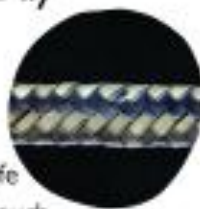
23rd October, Sun

Straw Plaiting Day

Starts 11am

Tickets £5 - £9

Try your hand at straw plaiting! Explore what life was like in the 1800s through this fascinating local heritage craft.



Crafts



For all

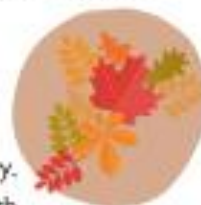
25th & 26th October, Tue & Wed

Discover & Make: Trees, Leaves & Wreaths

Starts 10.30am

Tickets £4 per child

Learn about the trees used in the chair industry. Make an autumn wreath.



Crafts



For children 4-11

27th October, Thurs

Kids' Crochet Workshop

Starts 11am

Tickets £8

Learn to crochet in this Halloween themed workshop - make a ghost or pumpkin! All materials provided.



Crafts



For children 5+

30th October, Sun

Halloween Ghost Hunt

Starts 2pm

Tickets £5 per child

Come dressed to scare & join in with ghoulish games and creepy crafts in this after-dark experience.



Family fun day



For children



Pumpkin Hunt Trail 23rd - 30th October

Hunt for pumpkins and solve our puzzle for a prize! No booking required. Available during standard opening hours. £3 per child. Recommended 4 - 11.

☎ 01494 957210

✉ info@wycombemuseum.org

🌐 www.wycombemuseum.org.uk

📱 @WycombeMuseum

📱 @WycombeMuseum

📱 @WycombeMuseum



For adults



For children



For all

Scan me
to book



B Discover Bucks Museum

Monday 24 – Saturday 29 October – Spooky Halloween Trail
Families will love our spooky Halloween inspired trail for £1, available all week, 10am – 4pm. No need to book, just ask at reception when you arrive.

Monday 24 October – Rangoli Sun Catcher Craft

Tuesday 25 October – Affirmation Station Craft

Wednesday 26 October – Meet our Bucks Hero: Valerie Williamson

Thursday 27 October – Witch on a Broom Craft

Friday 28 October – Make a Fear Eating Monster – Clay Workshop
Suitable for 6yo+

Saturday 29 October – Family Halloween Event
Show off your best Halloween costumes at our spookily fun family Halloween event.

All activities suitable for 3 years+ unless otherwise stated. Prices start at FREE - £5.50 per participant.

Booking Details

Places limited so please pre-book your tickets to avoid disappointment. For more information, session times and booking, scan the QR code or visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Join in

Share photos of your day using #DiscoverBucks and don't forget to tag us!

Discover Bucks Museum

Aylesbury HP20 2QP

01296 331441

discoverbucksmuseum.org



B Discover Bucks Museum

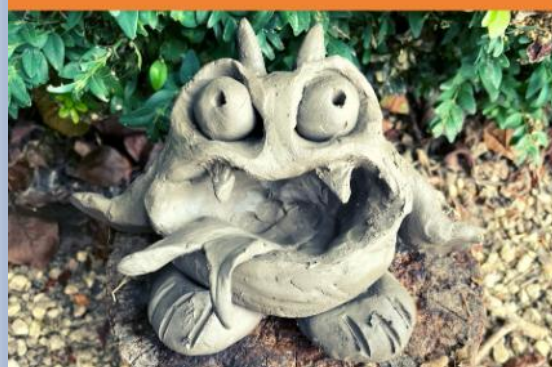
Discover Bucks Museum
Church Street
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
discoverbucksmuseum.org
01296 331441

October Half-Term

24 - 29 October 2022

Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm

Join us this October half-term for a fun-filled family-friendly week of arts and crafts topped off with a spooky family Halloween day on Saturday.





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THIS HALF TERM »»

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~~£25~~ »» **£15.00**

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www.silverstonemuseum.co.uk/schools-offer



Click "Buy"
Select the date and time of your visit



Then pay for your tickets and they
will be **instantly emailed** to you!

Terms & Conditions – Offer valid for all standard opening dates until 30th April 2023. For opening dates please check booking section on our website. This offer is for 40% off the standard walk up price. Offer can not be used with any other discount or voucher.

School Office

Class Notes

Please can you ensure that emails regarding absence, late arrival or your child leaving School early are sent into the School Office. We will then pass your message onto the teacher. Thank you.

Absences

Reporting an Absence. If your child is absent from School, please ensure you report the absence to the school Office via the absence line every day of your child's absence.

Sickness and diarrhoea - Your child is not permitted to return to School until they have been free of sickness/diarrhoea for 48 hours from the last episode, as per the Buckinghamshire County Council's policy.

Leave of Absence Applications

*'Leave of Absence' application forms need to be completed for **all absences other than medical** if they are during school hours, excluding sickness, which is reported via the absence line. The school does not encourage holiday during term time and therefore will be unauthorised. Where possible, please complete and return a "leave of absence form" to the school Office at least one month before leave is required.*

*For **Hospital/medical appointments** a 'Leave of Absence' application forms are not needed. **Please send an email into the school with evidence of your child's appointment.** Where possible please make appointments outside of school hours.*

Bikes & Scooters

A Polite reminder - children should not ride bikes or scooters whilst on the school site.

Drinks & Snacks

We do encourage parents/carers to provide their child with a bottle of water; squash is NOT permitted. Water bottles should be "see-through" with a sports top (to avoid spillages) and labelled clearly with your child's name. As a "healthy" school, we encourage parents/carers to provide their child with a healthy snack. Key Stage 1 children are provided with fruit from School as per the government initiative.

Please ensure that your child has a relevant healthy snack at break-time that is nut, sesame seed and kiwi free.

Uniform

*A reminder to all that we change from our Spring/Summer uniform to our Autumn/Winter uniform after the October half term break. Please note that uniform is no longer gender specific. **Please make sure all children have a coat in school from now on as the weather is getting colder***

Please note that in line with school policy, children are not permitted to wear make-up, have extreme haircuts or wear earrings whilst at school. If your child is seen wearing earrings, they will be asked to remove them and they will be put in an envelope until home time.

Late Items

Late Items If your child forgets items needed for the school day, they can be dropped off via the office, but we ask that this is kept to a minimum. If a child forgets their water bottle, we have cups in school that can be filled. If there are any letters to be handed in we ask that your child gives them to their teacher. We appreciate your support with this.

The Downley School Diary – 2022/2023

All dates below are provisional and subject to change.

Green – PA events

September		
October - Black History Month		
Monday 24 th October - Friday 28 th October	Half Term	
Monday 31 st October	Back to School	
November		
Monday 31 st October - Friday 4 th November	Bikeability - Year 5	
Tuesday 1 st November	Flu Vaccination - all year groups	am
Wednesday 2 nd November	Swimming Starts for 6B	
Wednesday 2 nd November	Parent Consultation evening	3.30 - 6pm
Thursday 3 rd November	Open Morning	9.30 – 11am
Thursday 3 rd November	SEN virtual session	2 – 3pm
Thursday 3 rd November	Parent Consultation evening	3.30 - 6.0pm
Wednesday 3rd November	PA AGM	8pm - 10pm
Thursday 10 th November	ODBST Coffee Morning	9 – 11am
Friday 11 th November	Remembrance Day	
Saturday 12th November	PA photo Shoot	
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need Day	
Monday 21 st November	Individual & Sibling Photographs	
Tuesday 22 nd November	Open Morning	9.30 – 11am
December		
Saturday 3rd December	Christmas Fayre	TBC
Tuesday 6 th December	Drop in 2 for families	3.15 – 3.45pm
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch	
Wednesday 21 st December - Tuesday 3 rd January	Christmas Break	