

The Downley School

“Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together”

November 2022



Head Teacher's Comment

The school continues to develop and improve, last week we had our half termly visit from our local authority adviser who was pleased with the calm atmosphere around the school and the engagement of the pupils in their learning. Mrs Best and I continue to report to the IEB regularly in relation to the changes that are taking place and we have held further meetings with the ODBST (the incoming Academy Trust) in relation to premises, personnel and education updates to ensure they are fully informed, and happy with the direction the school is taking. It is unlikely that the transfer to ODBST will occur this term. As a result, you will have seen the letter from Mrs Best informing you of our commitment to The Downley School next term. External support for English and maths has been arranged for over the coming weeks and the advisors will work with our subject leaders to ensure continued progress is evident.

Work has started to upgrade parts of the Dell area and the outdoor learning area around the yurt, and we are hoping to be able to use those areas again shortly to develop the outdoor curriculum. In school all classes have now completed their autumn assessments and we will be analysing the outcomes shortly. Any gaps shown by these assessments will be supported through in class teaching and/or through interventions groups as appropriate,

Thank you to all of you who attended our recent Y3 harvest celebration, the class drop-in session, the parent consultation appointments, and the ADHD parent workshop. These were well attended, and we will plan more opportunities for you to visit the school.

Thank you also to everyone who completed the recent parent questionnaire. Mrs Best is currently analysing the results and we will share an update with you once this is completed.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Miss Garlick and Mrs Best.

Interim Headteachers

Reception

This term in the Early Years Classrooms we have been very busy! We started taking reading books home every week which has been so fun! They enjoy their Friday trips to the library where they can choose their own book and really enjoy reading in groups with their teachers.

In phonics we have learnt a variety of sounds and have started blending the sounds to make words! Our phonics lessons are filled with high levels of participation and fun.

Maths has been all about the number 5! We have learnt to count forwards and backwards, add 1 more and take 1 away. Some of us have even managed to get to number 10! We also learnt all about 2D (flat shapes) and 3D shapes.

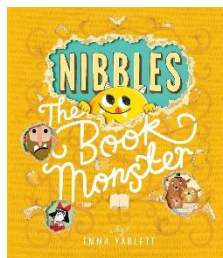
We are very excited about our upcoming Nativity and practices are in full swing!

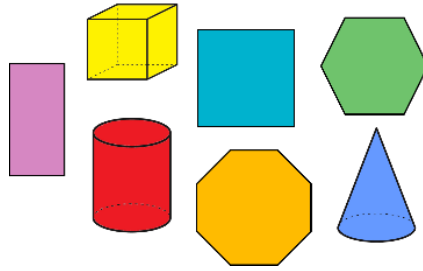
Year 1

In English we have started reading our new text, 'Nibbles the Book Monster' by Emma Yarlett. There are lots of references to other stories within this book as Nibbles is munching through them and changing the storylines. It would be great if you could discuss the characters and storylines for traditional texts such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk.

Here are our 'mastery keys' for this half term:

- ◆ Join words using 'and'
- ◆ Punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop
- ◆ Use capital letters for names of people and when writing 'I'
- ◆ Sequence sentences to form short narratives (link ideas or event by pronoun)
- ◆ Spell words containing phase 2 and 3 graphemes, plus our new graphemes from phase 5
- ◆ Use plural noun suffixes -s and -es, past tense verbs ending with -ed and verbs ending with -ing





In maths, we have been comparing number sentences using $<$, $>$ and $=$ symbols, eg. $3 + 4 > 5 + 1$. We have also started looking at 2D and 3D shapes – it would be great if you could go on a shape hunt either outside or inside your house to find as many 2D and 3D shapes as you can. What are the most common shapes in our environment? Can you find any repeating patterns? It's amazing what you spot when you look around!

The children have been exploring Google Earth in their geography lessons, learning about aerial photographs and creating 'messy maps' showing the layout of the classroom. One child commented, 'I am really enjoying my learning today', it is lovely when children show such enthusiasm towards their learning.

We have had some great additional learning opportunities, such as odd socks day as an introduction to anti-bullying week and wearing Mufti and spots / yellow to explore Children in Need and what it's all about. We also found out more about Remembrance Day, created poppies using a variety of media and joined together as a whole school community to commemorate this important day.



As we head into winter, please ensure all coats, hats, gloves and scarves are clearly labelled with your child's name (and class if possible) to make it as easy as possible for them to recognise.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

The Year 1 Team

Year 2

We can't believe how quickly this half-term is going. We are extremely proud of how all the children are working hard in their learning and developing their independence.

This week, we have been talking lots about how we can show kindness in the classroom and on the playground. We spoke about how we always need to use kind words and actions. Over dinner, have a chat with your children to see how they have demonstrated kindness this week.

In Geography, we have been learning all about the 7 continents with a specific focus on comparing Kenya and the UK. The children were able to compare the different types of animals, houses, and weather very confidently.

For Remembrance Day, the children produced some outstanding artwork. They had to use watercolours to paint a sunset and draw a silhouette of a soldier. It was lovely to see them all focusing so well.

We are very excited to be rehearsing for our Christmas Show. The children are working hard to learn all their lines and sing with enthusiasm. Please take time to help your child learn their lines at home and develop their stage voices.



As a treat, we watched the England vs Iran football match on Monday.



Thank you for everyone's likes and contributions on Class Dojo. We hope you have enjoyed looking at some of the pictures we have posted enjoyed talking to your children about their learning. We would like to start posting more pictures of the children onto our Class Dojo page. Please let us know if you would prefer us not to post a picture of your child.

Have a lovely weekend.

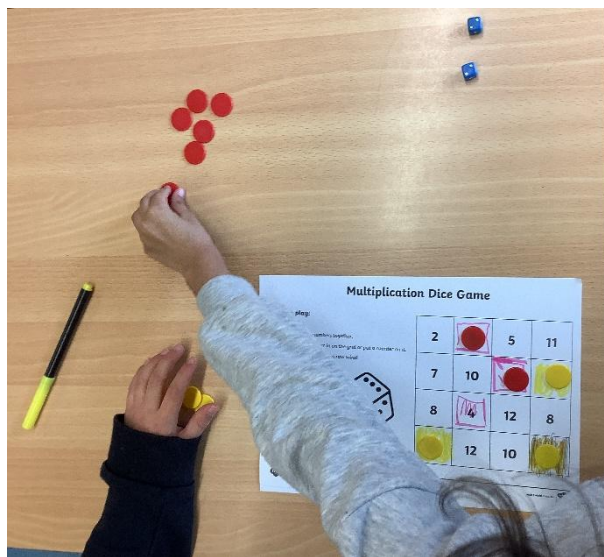
Year 2

Year 3

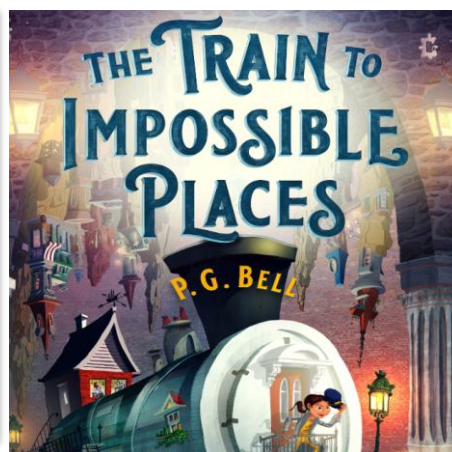
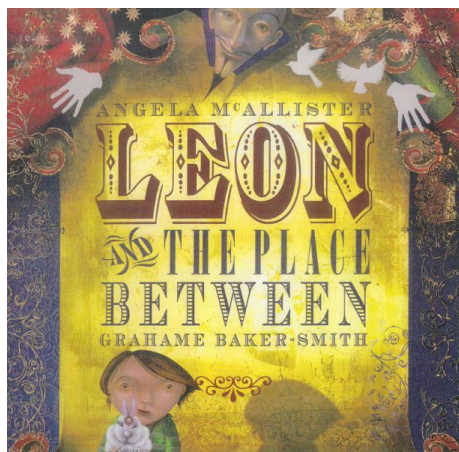
Year three have had a busy few weeks. The children really enjoyed doing their harvest assembly and they loved having the opportunity to perform to their special adults in their lives. They have not had much of an opportunity to perform recently and for their first performance post covid we thought they gave it 100%.

We have continued the amazing momentum that was created during maths week last week and we are discovering all the fun games that maths unlocks. 3H have been learning their 2D shapes in French and 3S are having a big push to master their times tables.

Its all go in year three and our mathematician brains are whirring hard!



Year 4



Dear Parents/Carers

It seems we have only just started this half-term and the shops are full of Christmas decorations and presents!

We were pleased that so many of you managed to attend the Parent's Evening, whether in person or remotely.

We have started sending out the results of this year's first 'Pixl' tests. These will show where any gaps are with your child's English, Reading Comprehension, and maths. There are rather a lot of facts and figures but, if you would like any of it explaining, please get in touch.



Speaking of maths, this term we have been working on addition and subtraction and calculating the perimeter of shapes. Our next topic is multiplication and division which will take us up to the end of term. We are continuing to practise our multiplication tables as they are so important for many future maths topics, and for other subjects too. We have also had great fun starting Dance in PE and trying percussion in Music.

We're all looking forward to our trip to the Verulamium Museum next Wednesday; please remember that we all need to be here by 08:20 to make sure we get there on time!

Thank you!

Mr Dollemore & Mrs Fyfe

Year 5



This week the Year 5 team, want to congratulate the year 5 children, who showed great focus and determination throughout assessment week. Nobody likes assessments, but the children faced every test with a positive attitude.

It was lovely to end the week outside with the whole school, marking the end of a reflective anti-bully week, and thinking about those that need our support during Children in Need.

We have started lots of new topics this half term. The children have been finding about all the fun activities you can do in the Alps over the Winter and the summer, due to the changes in the physical geography (apologies for the skiing requests!) By the time you read this newsletter, we will have hopefully explored our own local area, walking across the common and into the woods to Hughenden Manor. That's unless the rain stops us, of course!



In Design and Technology, we have been working together in groups, to make a healthier version of the family favourite, spaghetti bolognese. It has been really interesting to hear the children's ideas and we will be looking forward to spending the day cooking on the 2nd December.

In English we are looking at the figurative language and authorial choices, in a dark version of Hansel and Gretel and in the modern classic, The Lost Happy Endings. Although these are both picture books, the richness of language is a perfect level for Year 5 children to analyse and hopefully take into their own writing. It's important to remember that when looking at books for our children, novels are not the only type of book that will enrich their vocabulary and understanding of texts. On top of the fiction books your children are already reading, consider graphic novels, older picture books, non-fiction texts and also magazines and children's newspapers to support your children (First News and The Week are the most popular).

We will look forward to answering your questions and concerns at our virtual Ufton Court Meeting on the 8th of December. A link will be sent out at the beginning of that week.

Dinner table discussion question: Where are the Alps and how were they formed?

(Can your child remember all 8 countries the Alps are part of?)

Prompts: continent, Equator, longitude, latitude, Fold mountains, Northern and Southern Hemispheres

The Year 5 Team

Year 6

Year 6 November

What a fantastic month in Year 6 full of hard work and lots of exciting activities.

This month Year 6 have started learning about electricity in our science lessons. The children have enjoyed using batteries, bulbs, motors, wires, and switches to create working circuits. Everyone can now explain how electricity works and why we need a complete circuit to make the bulb light up. We have realised how important electricity is in our modern lives and we all decided we couldn't live without it!

In maths, we have been focusing on fractions, we can now add and subtract fractions and use them to solve lots of different style problems, some very difficult ones! Soon we will be looking at multiplying and dividing fractions as well.

In our English lessons the Year 6s have been writing to persuade. 6B have been thinking about endangered tigers and persuading people to make a change and help them not go extinct. Then everyone chose a topic to write about independently, there were lots of different ones such as antibullying, helping other endangered animals, pollution, plastic in the ocean and even reducing toxic waste! 6L were writing to persuade people to buy their healthy snacks (they sound delicious) and lead healthier lifestyles.

For anti-bullying week, we all came in wearing some very interesting, odd socks to raise awareness and encourage each other's differences, a key message for antibullying week. Every day at the end of the day we spoke about how we or other people who have reached out to them as the theme of anti-bullying week is reaching out to others. It was so nice to see the kind and thoughtful acts of kindness that had happened through the school day.

And finally...

The whole school came together to show their unity and reflect on the messages they had taken away from the lessons taught during anti-bullying week.



REACH OUT

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2022

Opportunities to Discover



FOOTBALL CHRISTMAS CAMP – 19th – 21st December 2022

A great way to get your children's minds active, brilliant for exercise and mental health – IT'S FUN

So book them in & away from their gaming & phones! Plus it will give you time for last minute shopping and wrapping

Lots of training designed on fitness, dribbling & shooting PLUS matches as per Government & FA Guidelines

**Christmas camp over 3 days
9.45 – 12.30pm (5 – 15-year-olds)**

Sessions to be held at WOOBURN PARK

£20 per child

3 day special £48

Siblings offer £15 a day or 3 day £38

Payment at booking via bank transfer

AGES 5-15 years

PFA Bucks Ltd

60-02-09

60634820



OWN water bottle essential –please bring at snack

Booking by email ONLY to maxineashman@outlook.com

For price and booking info, contact Marco Papa on:

Tel: 07940 083 790

E: profootballacademy@hotmail.com

www.pfabucks.co.uk

Twitter: @pfabucks

Facebook: facebook.com/pfabucks

FA qualified coaches

FA 1st aid

FA children Safeguarding

DBS Checked

Be part of the PFA community



As a professional football coach we will do all we can to maintain hygiene through staggered starts & finishes. Routine cleaning of equipment but we cannot make an guarantees or take responsibility for an infection from Coronavirus

Cancellation policy – please provide 24 hours' notice from start of the session if you cannot attend. Anything after this will not allow for a refund or swap.

Please ensure to tell us immediately if any of the children or families have symptoms of the virus or have tested positive



the
national
sleep
helpline

Does your child suffer with sleep issues?

Do you struggle with your child's bedtime?

Will your child not sleep in their own bed?

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541

Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Wednesday 9am - 11am

the
national sleep
helpline

50%

Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point*

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?

In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

03303 530 541

Sunday - Tuesday & Thursday 7pm - 9pm
Wednesday 9am - 11am

POWERED BY

the sleep charity

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Furniture Village

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*Survey of 10,000 parents, 2021



FREE

Christmas

HAF CAMPS

**21st / 22nd / 23rd
December 2022**

10-2pm Everyday

All attendees will receive a nutritious lunch. For all 5-12 year olds.
Activities include a range of sports with plenty of fun guaranteed!
To book contact Joseph Pegg at joseph.pegg@community-group.co.uk



*To book your free place you must provide proof that your child/children receive Free School Meals.

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.

End of term

In line with other local schools, we will end the term at 1.15pm on Tuesday 20th December. Please collect your child from the usual place

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 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

Tuesday 29 th November	Phonics Session for Parents	9 - 10am
Tuesday 29 th November	Phonics Session for Parents	2.30 - 3pm
Wednesday 30 th November	Year 4 trip to Roman Verulamium Museum	
December		
Friday 2nd December	PA Mufti Day	
Friday 2 nd December	Year 5 Cooking	
Saturday 3rd December	Christmas Fayre	12 - 3pm
Tuesday 6 th December	Drop in 2 for families	3.15 -3.45pm
Thursday 8 th December	Year 5 Residential Virtual Meeting	6pm
Wednesday 14 th December	Year 2 Christmas Production	2.15pm
Thursday 15 th December	Year 2 Christmas Production	9.15am
Thursday 15 th December	Reception Christmas production	2.15pm
Friday 16 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	
Friday 16 th December	Christmas lunch for children	
Tuesday 20 th December	Break up	1.15pm
Wednesday 21 st December Tuesday 3 rd January	Christmas Break	