



The Downley School

"Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together"

February 2023



Head Teacher's Comment

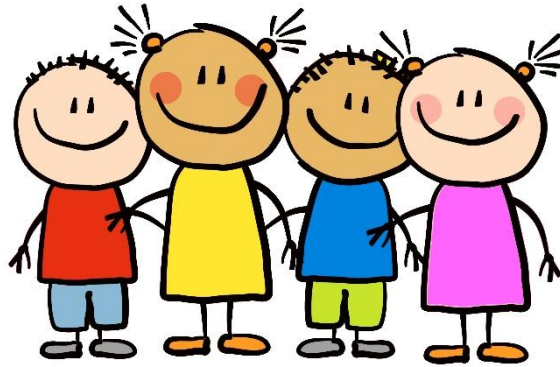
The monthly newsletters always come around quickly which is no surprise as school is a very busy place with lots happening and this month has been no exception. As I write the children are involved in a very informative session as part of anti-bullying week. By the end of the day all our pupils will have taken part in one of the workshops. Thank you to Mrs Murrill for arranging these to enhance our PHSE curriculum.

The staff wanted me to pass on their thanks for the many positive comments and thanks that they received during our parent consultation evenings this week. I hope you are pleased with the progress your child is making, we certainly feel that the children have really stepped up and are demonstrating strong commitments to their learning which is positive to see. We also held an IEB (governor) morning on Monday. They commented positively about pupils' behaviour around school and in lessons, and the strong relationships that were seen between children and between children and adults.

We would like to offer a further 'drop in' session for you to come and look, with your child, at the classroom and their work. To allow time for the staff display some of the work your children have completed, this terms session will be held on Tuesday 7th March straight after school.

Have a lovely weekend, Miss Garlick, Interim Headteacher

Reception



Our new topic for Spring Term is 'People who Help us'. We will be learning all about various members of the community that help us. These include chefs, doctors, nurses, emergency service, postmen/women and people who help us in school.

Phonics have continued and the children have impressed us with their amazing progress. We have learnt the sounds 'ur', 'ow', 'oi', 'ear', 'air' and 'er'. We continue to practise our tricky words and blending our new words.

Maths has been all about length and weight. We have used blocks and measuring sticks to measure everything that we could find! We measured our scarves, the door, our coats and even each other! Did you know that it takes 2 children to make up the same height as Miss Aslett? We then moved on to weight... We learnt all about weighing using tipping scales. Heavier items go down and lighter things go up! We weighed everything we could fit in the scales from inside and outside.

Year 1

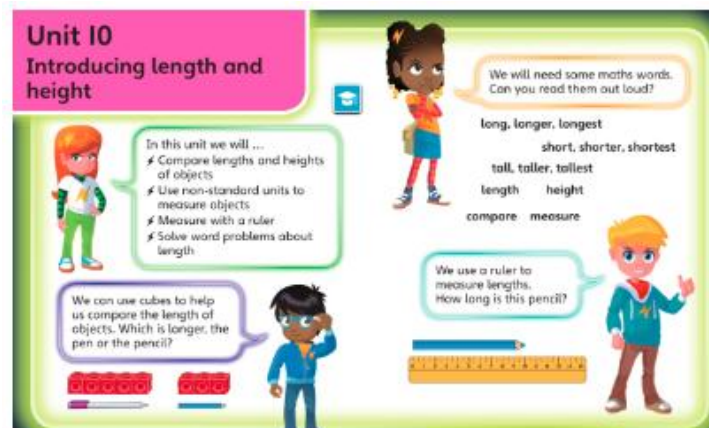
We cannot believe that we are halfway through the school year already!

English – We have just started the first of our two texts this half term, Beegu. It links in very nicely to our phonics work on 'alien' words (these are pseudo-words which are used in preparation for the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check which will take place at the beginning of June). If your child comes home talking about 'alien' words, this is why. Please keep an eye on calendar dates as we will be running a parent information session on the Phonics Screening Check and what it entails. For now, you can find out more here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbKGLJPp6ww> and on the Little Wandle parent area of the website here (under 'a quick guide to alien words'): <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Maths – We have continued with our unit on Numbers to 50: comparing more than 2 numbers using $<$, $>$ and $=$ symbols and counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. As well as 'concrete' objects (such as cubes), the children have used a variety of pictorial representations for numbers, including tens frames, part-whole models, and number lines. Our next unit is 'length and height'.



Science – We will be continuing our topic on 'Animals including humans'. Children will explore using their senses and classify animals and humans according to different features (both visible and non-visible).

Lost property – We have been 'collecting' an awful lot of unnamed uniform / PE kit in Year 1. Please could you check that your child's name is clearly marked on their clothing so that it can be returned? Thank you!

Year 2

This past half term the Year 2's has learnt and done so much.

In English, we got the chance to be creative and explore the topic of dragons through writing descriptions and making use of expanded noun phrases while trying to remember our full stops and capital letters. We are really impressed with the progress the children are making in their writing. You can help support our learners by pointing out capital letters and full stops in any stories or texts you come across together.

In mathematics, we have been looking at statistics with focus on tally charts, pictograms, and block diagrams. Our learners have really enjoyed this as they got the chance to create their own tally charts about their favourite animals to find out the most popular and least popular pets in our class.

In science, we have been recapping our past topics of animals including humans and materials. It has been interesting to see what our learners can remember and how we can refresh our memories.

In art, we have been exploring mark making through the use of charcoal. It is messy business, but the learners have thoroughly enjoyed being creative and freely expressing themselves.

In PE, we have been exploring movement through dance and creatively expressing ourselves by coming up with our own dances in groups. This builds on our social skills of teamwork, confidence and problem solving.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Kindly

The Year 2 Team

Year 3



This term in year three we have been concentrating on our sentence structures. This has involved us playing around with words to see if we could make new sentences that still made sense!

At the end of last term, we continued to play our maths games. We even managed to find some Tudor maths games and puzzles to link in with our history topic. We knew that Tudor children often worked hard but it was nice to know that they still played counting games, tic tac toe and hopscotch!



Last term we spent Friday afternoons improving our drawing and shading skills. This culminated in the pupils choosing their favourite still life objects to draw, paint and add texture to. Their favourite object was a mushroom shaped wooden nutcracker!

Year 4



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a great half-term break. The children worked very hard for us last term and have seen how much they have improved since the start of the year when they did their recent PIXL tests and independent writing tasks. The children are much more confident to express their learning orally in lessons and have developed their writing stamina and quality of sentence structure in paragraphs. They have become more independent, resilient, and more confident to tackle new tasks and problems.

We are really proud of every child and look forward to chatting with you at parents' evening.

Last term, we finished our work on all 4 operations and area in maths. We particularly enjoyed making our slingshot cars, experimenting with charcoal, and developing our writing techniques across various subjects.



	Spring 2 Topic Overview
Maths	Fractions, Decimals
Writing	Koji Island
Reading	Ariki and the Island of Wonders
Science	States of Matter
Computing	MS Software and Collaborative Writing
History	
Geography	Where does food come from?
RE/PSHE	Festivals/ Safety & Changing Body/Citizenship
French	Weather
Art/DT	Drawing Power Prints/ Recipe adaptation
Music	Haiku music and performance
Games/PE	Premier – Hockey/ 4F Swimming



Mr Dollemore and Mrs Fyfe

Year 5

Welcome back to Spring Term 2! We are excited for this term as there is lots of juicy learning topics and concepts to introduce to our Year 5 children. We hope everyone had a great half-term and feel refreshed and revitalised upon the return to school.

Geography:

This half term our Geography topic focus is 'Why do our oceans matter'. Which our students have been enjoying so far. Realising the journey that plastic takes in order to reach our ocean, and what we can do at home to reduce, reuse

and recycle our plastics to make a positive impact on our ocean environments. On this note, we are visiting our own local water environment which will be a local pond in our area in week 5, Wednesday 22nd March, we need some parent volunteers, if you are available on this date pencil it into your diary and get in contact with Mrs Murrill or Mr Langton via dojo. More information will be sent out closer to the time.

English:

Our literacy texts for this term are the 'Paper bag Prince' for English writing, and 'Pollution a look behind the scenes' for Guided Reading. These texts will tie in nicely with our geography topic for the half term!

Maths:

This half term we have a continued focus on fractions, looking at adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions. As well as multiplying mixed numbers with whole numbers and improper fractions with whole numbers, before moving into the comparison between fractions, decimals, and percentages. We would like to acknowledge that our students have been working very hard in their maths and we are proud of their efforts to date. Please can you make sure that your child is completing their Mathletics homework as this will help to consolidate their learning from school at home.

Dinner table conversation:

"How does plastic impact on our ocean environments?"

Enjoy some lovely art completed over half term by our incredible students!



kind regards,

Mrs Murrill and Mr Langton

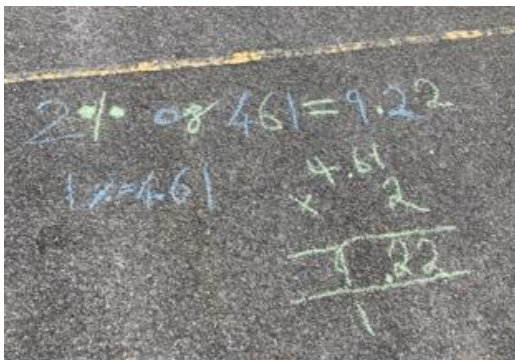
Year 6

Welcome back everyone to another action-packed term, with World Book Day and the residential trip just around the corner. The children have produced fantastic work this term even sharing their proud pieces in assembly and with the younger children.

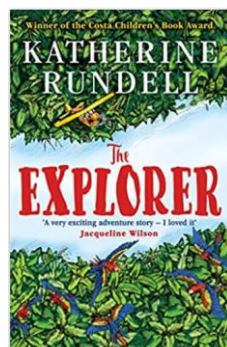
Year 6 reading their own stories to Year 2



This week, we continue to find percentages of amounts and solving missing number problems. Our next topic in maths is algebra which the children are looking forward too. For those raring to go, visit <https://nrich.maths.org/1056> for algebraic questions with solutions.



In English, we have started our quality central text for this term titled 'The Explorer' and we very much look forward to creative writing and writing information texts soon. This book links in well with our new topic in science on living things and habitats.



In geography, we will look at natural resources and in R.E we continue to study Hinduism and festivals such as Holi. Happy Holi to those celebrating on Wednesday 8th March.

In computing, we continue to look at data handling which the children have found interesting as we have been looking at decimals and percentages in real life settings for example managing money.

Opportunities to Discover

Children's Weekly Swimming Lessons

Amersham - Wycombe - Aylesbury - Gerrards Cross - Maidenhead - Slough

Weekly lessons run year round!

BOOK NOW!

£55 per month (per child)
Maximum 6 children per class
Children aged 3 to 12 years
Beginners, Improvers & Advanced

Book Online:
www.seriouslyfun.com

Call: 01753 364 364

Teachers required • Join our team



Kids Swimming Lessons

Join 1000's of children learning to swim with us every week!

Max
6 per
class

FREE Welcome Pack includes swim bag, awards file & sticker chart!

Amersham: The Beacon School (HP6 5PF) Mon-Fri after school & Sat morning

Wycombe: Chiltern Wood School (HP13 5HB) Wed & Thu after school

Aylesbury: Aylesbury Grammar School (HP21 7RP) Mon-Fri after school & Sat/Sun morning

Gerrards Cross: Thorpe House School (SL9 8QA) Mon-Fri after school & Sat/Sun morning

Maidenhead: St. Piran's School (SL6 7LZ) Fri after school & Sun morning

Slough: Teikyo Japanese School (SL2 4QS) Mon-Fri after school & Sat/Sun morning

✓ **Monthly payments**

£55 per month (per child) for one 30 minute lesson per week (in line with school terms)

✓ **Small classes**

Max 6 children per class to ensure your child gets special attention and assistance

✓ **Siblings swim together**

Different class levels at the same time so siblings of different abilities can swim together

✓ **Water safety lessons**

Every child takes part in our age specific water safety lessons every term

✓ **FUN Awards Scheme**

A structured, progressive and FUN awards scheme tracking your child's progress

✓ **Friendly, caring teachers**

Our caring, FUN and fully trained teachers are DBS checked and qualified lifesavers

Teaching YOUR child to swim in a safe and FUN Way!

Book Online:
www.seriouslyfun.com

Call: 01753 364 364

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budget.

save.

spend.



The CAP Money Course is a free course that will teach you budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that really works, which could be particularly helpful in the current cost of living crisis.

This is what a previous delegate commented about the CAP Money Course:

"This has been a life-changer so far. I hope here at our home we can change the game now. We are following the plan to keep on working to cut costs and reduce all redundant costs. If I had known about this a few years back, I can tell you, I would be where my dreams always wanted to be, but it is not too late to start."

A CAP Money Course will be run over March and April on 3 Monday evenings at the King's Centre starting at 7.30 pm. Each session lasts about 2 hours.

Course dates: 20 & 27 March and 3 April

Please follow this link, enter your post code and select the King's Church location in order to sign up for this CAP Money Course:

<https://capuk.org/get-help/cap-money-course>

Supporting Together – Environment, Parents, Schools

STEPS

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) would like to offer parents an opportunity to join them on a short workshop presentation in

Overcoming Childhood Anxiety

The workshop will help you as parents understand when anxiety might be a problem (as opposed to a 'normal' developmental phase) and describes different anxiety issues. It is also an opportunity to learn brief key treatment strategies and understand the important role you play as parents in supporting your children and young people that may be struggling with anxiety.

There are various sessions planned to take place on:

Monday 20/2/23 – 18:00-19:30 – Virtual via Teams

Wednesday 1/3/23 – 13:00-14:30 – Virtual via Teams

Friday 10/3/23 – 09:30-11:00 – Virtual via Teams

If you are interested in attending either of these event's, please click on the link below or scan the QR code to complete a short form of interest. Further details and links will then be sent out closer the time.

<https://forms.office.com/e/uTyjnsmkxr>



The Jungle Book

Drama, dance and singing
holiday courses for 4–10 year olds

Three full days over Easter

perform.org.uk/junglebook



— Perform holiday courses are unbeatable – the children are safe, having lots of fun, making friends and learning new things. Paula De Pando

Easter holiday courses for 4–10s

This April, we've got the bare necessities of life covered as we join Mowgli and friends in *The Jungle Book*.

Journeying deep into the jungle, we'll meet Baloo the bear, black panther Bagheera and hunt down ferocious Bengal tiger Shere Khan.

Our energetic team of actors, musicians and dancers will inspire and encourage the children and original music and improvisation will get imaginations soaring. Topped off with a fabulously colourful final show, it's going to be the wildest holiday ever!



Venues *The Jungle Book*

Three Day Courses £275* 10am – 3pm

Monday 3rd – Wednesday 5th April

Chelsea	St Luke's Hall, SW3 3RP
Clapham South	St Francis Xavier College, SW12 8EN
Dulwich	St Stephen's Millennium Hall, SE21 7HW
Earlsfield	Earlsfield Baptist Church, SW18 3NZ
Hackney	Round Chapel Old School Rooms, E5 0PU
Highgate	United Reform Church, N6 6BA
Islington	St Andrew's C of E Primary School, N1 0LB
Muswell Hill	The Birchwood Centre, N10 3BG
Notting Hill	The Tabernacle, W11 2AY
Primrose Hill	St Paul's C of E Primary School, NW3 3DS
Richmond	Vineyard Life Church, TW10 6AQ
Sevenoaks	The Parish Church of St Luke, TN13 1XT

Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th April

Beaconsfield	St Michael's Church Hall, HP9 2BN
Blackheath	John Ball Primary School, SE3 0TP
Clerkenwell	Exmouth Market Centre, EC1R 4QE
Crouch End	The Union Church, N8 9PX
Ealing	St Barnabas Millennium Hall, W5 1QG
Hammersmith	Holy Innocents Church, W6 0UB
Highbury*	St John's Highbury Vale Primary School, N5 1DL
Kensington	United Reformed Church, W8 6BL
St John's Wood	Mansergh Club, NW8 9QG
Twickenham	The Crossway Centre, TW1 2PD
Wimbledon	Mansel Road Centre, SW19 4AA
Winchester	Holy Trinity Parish Church, SO23 8DG

What your child will enjoy

- ▶ Three fun-packed full days of drama, dance and singing
- ▶ Energetic friendly team of actors, dancers and musicians
- ▶ Engaging arts and crafts activities
- ▶ Colourful performance on the last day for friends and family with original music and costumes
- ▶ Personalised certificate of achievement

How to book

Visit perform.org.uk/junglebook to book online or to find out more call us on 020 7255 9120.

Course T-shirts are required at a cost of £8.50. We offer a 25% discount for siblings attending the same holiday course at the same venue. Payment can be made by credit/debit card or childcare vouchers. See our website for Terms & Conditions and our refund policy.

*Owing to class size restrictions, Highbury is priced at £290 for 3 days. Your child should bring a water bottle and a nut-free packed lunch.

VISA



CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

— Thank you for creating a warm and supportive environment for my son to flourish.

Lauren Godfrey



perform.org.uk/junglebook

020 7255 9120

CLOTHES LABELS



Iron On

15 Name Labels	£ 2.25
25 Name Labels	£ 3.25
50 Name Labels	£ 5.25



Sew On

10 Labels	£ 2.00
20 Labels	£ 3.50
30 Labels	£ 5.00



Peel & Stick Labels

5 Name Labels	£ 1.00
10 Name Labels	£ 1.75
15 Name Labels	£ 2.50



Peel & Stick Shoe Labels

5 pairs for £1.50

Order From - www.labelcreating.co.uk

Email - labelcreating@gmail.com

Tel - Marion - 07754 515586

School Office

Inset Days for this academic year: -

Monday 17th April 2023

Monday 5th June 2023

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** '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.*

Medical

*All medicines, including Asthma inhalers, must be supplied in **the original packaging with the dispensing label.***

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

March		
Thursday 2nd & Friday 3 rd March	World Book Day	
Monday 6 th March	Energize rehearsal Year 5	
Tuesday 7th March - Friday 10th March	Book Fair (Imagination Studio)	
Tuesday 7th March	Parent First Aid Workshop TDS+ Building	8.30 -12pm
Tuesday 7 th March	Parents Drop-In Session	3.15 -3.45pm
Thursday 16 th March	SEN drop-in session for parents	2 -3pm
Friday 17 th March	Red Nose Day	
Thursday 23 rd March	Energize dress rehearsal Year 5	
Thursday 23 rd March	Energize Production Year 5	7 - 9.15 pm
Saturday 25th March	Energize Production Year 5	7 - 9.15 pm
Monday 27 th March - Friday 31 st March	Year 6 Residential Trip	
Friday 31 st March	Break up	1.15pm
April		
Monday 3 rd April - Friday 14 th April	Easter Break	
Monday 17 th April	Inset day	
Tuesday 18 th April	Back to school	
Thursday 20 th April	Year 2 Trip Mop End	
Thursday 20 th April	SEN drop-in session for parents	2 -3pm