



The Downley School

"Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together"

January 2023



Head Teacher's Comment

Positivity: noun [U] the quality of having a positive attitude:

As we approach the end of January and the hope of longer days and lighter mornings, it is a good time to reflect on the journey the school has undertaken over the recent months and look forward to the future.

The plans are continuing for The Downley School to join ODBST and convert to an academy. Transition can sometimes be difficult, but ODBST have been involved in many meetings and discussions over the recent months and I am sure the transition will be a smooth one. You will hear more about this over the coming weeks.

In school, the opportunities for your children continued to develop; the new sports provision and sports clubs have started. The dodgeball, netball and archery clubs are well attended, and the pupils are enjoying their new PE lessons. Year 5 pupils took part in Bikeability last week so please look out for them on the roads around Downley!

Miss Garlick, Interim Headteacher

Reception



This month has been a very exciting month in the reception classes. We welcomed a new teacher, Miss Aslett, and have enjoyed getting to know her. We also started our very first PE lessons. This is the highlight of our week!

Our theme for this half term is Our Favourite Stories – we are reading lots of stories and focusing show and tell on our favourite stories.

We are reading these stories in class:

- The Stick Man – Julia Donaldson
- The Magic Paintbrush – Julia Donaldson
- The Tiger who came to Tea – Judith Kerr

Amongst all these exciting new things we have continued to expand our phonics and Mathematics knowledge. We have learnt the sounds sh, th, ng and nk and spent some time reviewing all the other sounds we learnt last term.

We are growing our numbers all the way up to 10! We can do simple addition and subitizing with those numbers. We really enjoy exploring our phonics and Mathematics using various online games on our big screens on class.

We are also asking parents for donations of any extra handbags/scarves/sunglasses that they are not using anymore.

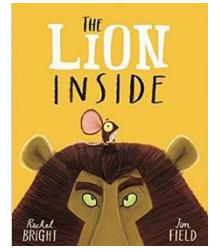


Please see later in the newsletter for a request from the EYFS team

Year 1

Welcome back to the second term! We would also like to welcome Pippa and Miss Thomas to 1J – we hope you have had a good start at TDS!

Congratulations to our Tom Cup winner, Mia, and also to our most recent Stars of the Week – you are all amazing and we are so proud of the achievements you have made in Year 1 so far.



English – We started a new text this term, The Lion Inside, and the children have been using role play and knowledge of different animals to discuss the feelings of the characters. We are continuing to work on sentence composition, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops / exclamation marks / question marks. We are trying to use describing words to make our sentences more interesting and we have been exploring alternative words for ‘big’ and ‘small’.

Maths – We have been exploring different methods of finding answers to addition and subtraction problems, including partitioning into tens and ones on a part-whole model and using number lines and tens frames. We will continue to work on numbers to 50 after half term – please see below for Spring 1 maths coverage:

Science – Our topic this term is ‘Animals including humans’. Children are exploring different groups of animals and their characteristics. We are asking questions such as, “do all birds fly?”, and exploring the diet of animals, including humans. This topic will continue into next half term where we will continue to explore animals (including humans) and their features and use this knowledge to sort and classify in a number of ways.

Key Vocabulary	Mammals	Birds	Fish	Reptiles	Amphibians
amphibians Amphibians live in the water as babies and on land as they grow older. They have smooth, slimy skin.	human, mouse, dog, cow	penguin, chicken, flamingo, robin	goldfish, tuna, shark, eel	snake, turtle, lizard, alligator	frog, toad, newt, salamander
birds All birds have a beak, two legs, feathers and wings.					
fish Fish live and breathe under water. They have scaly skin, fins to help them swim and they breathe through gills.					
mammals Mammals are animals that breathe air, grow hair or fur and feed on their mother's milk as a baby.					
reptiles All reptiles breathe air. They have scales on their skin.					
carnivore Animals that mostly eat other animals (meat) are carnivores.					
herbivore Animals that only eat plants are herbivores.					
omnivore Animals that eat both plants and other animals are omnivores.					

To look at all the planning resources linked to the Animals including Humans unit, click here.

Key Vocabulary	Senses
sight Your eyes let you see all the things around you.	
hearing Your ears let you listen to all the things around you. Your brain is able to tell what different sounds are.	
touch Your skin gives you the sense of touch. You can tell if something is warm, cold, smooth or rough without even looking at it!	
taste Your sense of taste comes from your tongue. You can tell if something tastes bitter or sweet. You might have some tastes you like and some you don't.	
smell You smell using your nose. Your nose can tell if things smell nice or not nice.	

Parts of the Body
head, eye, nose, teeth, ear, mouth, shoulder, elbow, hand, thumb, fingers, knee, leg, foot, toes

We hope you all have a lovely half term break – fingers crossed for some dry weather and sunshine!

Year 2

Year 2 have been very busy over the past month. They have become much more independent, resilient learners and are showing lots of pride over their work.

In science, the children have been developing their scientific enquiry skills. They have been investigating materials.

Last week, the children had to make boats out of tin foil. They had to try and make their boat strong enough to hold the most coins. We tested them out to see which boat was the strongest.



In maths, the children have been working very hard at practicing their 10 times tables. The children have been playing lots of games, chanting them as a class and writing them down as number sentences to help them remember.



In computing, the children have been using 'typing-club' to improve their touch typing. The children have really enjoyed using this website. If you have time, please encourage them to

practice at home.

In English, we had some big news! Dragons have been spotted at The Downley School! The children have been working hard at writing descriptions of the dragons to display around school. They had to use expanded noun phrases and apostrophes to show possession.



Well done to all the Year 2 children on their hard work this month. Please spend some time helping your child practice their 2,5 and 10 times tables at home. Please also help encourage them to practice their writing this month. It would be lovely to see the children write a letter to their class to describe what they have been up to over the weekend!

Year 3



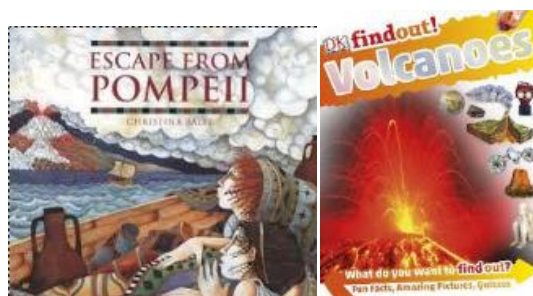
In year three we have been investigating forces. We've had great fun investigating magnets and the magnetic world around us. We have even entered in magician territory by magically making zips "float in mid-air".

3H have been reading the Iron Man by Ted Hughes. We have thought about the questions we would like to ask the characters in the story. We also made some textured Iron Men and Women and had a little dance to Black Sabbath's song "Iron Man"



3S have been discovering what it was like to be a child in Tudor times. We have come to the conclusion that whilst it is hard to wake up and go to school for six hours, five days a week. It was harder for Tudor seven year olds who were expected to learn a trade and work for twelve hours a day!

Year 4



The children have enjoyed starting to learn about new themes and topics this Spring Term (see below). In particular in English, we have been writing descriptions and diary entries about two children Tranio and Livia living in Pompeii, in Roman times. The children are now working on developing their confidence and accuracy at using noun phrases, prepositions, fronted adverbials and speech which is part of the expectations to meet the age-related expectations in Year 4.



In maths, we have been looking at multiplication and division and will be moving onto area, fractions and decimals during the Spring term. The children are still working hard on their times tables and being fluent in this area is essential to access much of the curriculum more confidently.

In science, we finished our work on electricity and enjoyed making our own switches. We will be moving on to states of matter and hopefully you will have seen our practical work on Class Dojo.



The children have been developing their netball skills with Premier Sports and in RE are learning about different festivals from Christian, Islam and Hindu faiths and sharing their own personal experiences about celebrations. This term will be also developing our knowledge of different medium with pencil and charcoal, paint and crayon and looking at building mechanical systems in DT.

	Spring 1 Topic Overview
Maths	Multiplication, Division, Area, Fractions
Writing	Escape from Pompeii
Reading	Volcanoes
Science	Digestive System & Teeth
Computing	Computer Systems & Networks
History	Anglo Saxons – How difficult was it to invade and settle?
Geography	
RE/PSHE	Festivals/Safety and Changing Body
French	Numbers/Calendars/Months/Days
Art/DT	Drawing Power Prints/ Mechanical systems – creating a slingshot car
Music	Rock and Roll
Games/PE	Premier – Netball/ 4F Swimming

Year 5 – The Tudor Edition!

Do you know why Henry VIII killed Anne Boleyn? How would you hide a Catholic Priest and what did the Tudors eat at a banquet? These are some of the questions Year 5 have been answering so far this half term.

On the 11th -12th January, we had the opportunity to stay the night at the incredible Ufton Manor, home to Lord and Lady Perkins in 1599, who were well known for hiding Catholic priests. We ate like Tudors, danced like Tudors and although we didn't quite sleep like Tudors, we did get to experience old plumbing and creaky floorboards! It was a great experience, not only to develop our Tudor knowledge, but to have some independence as we approach Year 6.



The 'fun', however, did not stop at Ufton Court. Last week, we were coming back from PE, to discover a crime had been committed in our classrooms. A Tudor crime! We had to work together, using the clues and work out who had been killed and why?



We are really enjoying this topic and some of the Year 5s have also been inspired to go and find out more by themselves. Sophie and Amelia B had a great time at Hampton Court Palace and then created a PowerPoint to tell us all about what they had learn. Well done girls!

The Year 5 Team

Year 6

January 2023

Year 6 have certainly had a busy start to the new year! We have been working incredibly hard in learning all about coordinates in maths, we can now reflect, translate, and draw lots of different shapes using coordinates and all four quadrants.

In English, we wrote Tanka poems, which are Japanese poems like Haikus. They must have a certain number of syllables on each line and do not need to rhyme. We all wrote about nature, some of our favourite animals, plants, and seasons.

In History we are learning about the census and how we can use it as evidence for historical investigation. We created a census for our school and visited all the classes to collect their data. We asked about age, favourite hobbies and if they have any pets among other things.

For our science lessons we have been experimenting to how light is affected by different surfaces. We found that if you look at a picture through a glass of water then it turns backwards! And also, that if you bend the light in a certain way, it splits the light beam to create a spectrum, and this is how rainbows are formed!

Overall, Year 6 have had a great start to the year everyone is working extremely hard, and we are enjoying all the different learning opportunities. Well done Year 6 keep up the good work!

Opportunities to Discover



FOOTBALL HALF TERM CAMP

13th – 16th February 2023

We are back this Half Term for PFA Football Camp – keep your children active during the holidays doing what they love with their friends.

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

So, book them in & away from their gaming & phones!

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

Half term camp over 4 days

9.30 – 12.45pm (5 – 15-year-olds)

Sessions to be held at WOOBURN PARK

£20 per child

3 day special £48

4 day special £68

Siblings offer £15 a day or 3 day £38/ 4 days £53

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: 079-80 083 790

E: proffootballacademy@hotmail.com

www.gfabooks.co.uk

✉ @pfabados

facebook.com/pfabuads

FA qualified coaches

EA Test and

FA children Safeguarding

DESS Checkbook

Be part of the PFA community

For professional football clubs to be able to take on massive debts through transfers, it is essential that the clubs have a strong financial backing of equipment but to ensure that no guarantee of this responsibility for an infinite time.



February & Easter Holidays Gymnastics & Trampolining Camps

During the February Half Term & Easter Holidays 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

February: Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th at Hazlemere Youth Centre & Thursday 16th Feb at Court Garden

Easter: Tuesday 5th & 11th, Wednesday 4th & 12th April at Hazlemere Youth Centre and Thursday 6th & 13th April 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!**





AJD GIRLS TRAINING CENTRE
CRESSEX ASTROTURF, HIGH WYCOMBE
HP12 4QA

FREE HALF TERM

FOR GIRLS OF ALL EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY LEVELS, WE
ARE GROWING OUR GIRLS ONLY CENTRE FOR ANY
INTERESTED!

WHEN: THU 19 JAN - THU 09 FEB, X4 WEEKS

TIMING: 5.00PM-6.00PM

WHO FOR: YEARS 3 TO 6

COST: NO COST

MORE INFO & BOOKING:
ADAM@AJDFOOTBALLCOACHING.COM



VIBE Church

LAUNCH SUNDAY

SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2023



**YOU ARE
INVITED**

**VIBE CHURCH
VISION SUNDAY**
Launch Service
10:30am - 12noon

GRAND OPENING
With guests 1pm

**COMMUNITY
CELEBRATION**
1pm - 3pm

Vibe Church
High Wycombe
209 The Pastures
Downley
HP13 5RR

@vibechurcheurope
www.vibe-church.com

Good Living & A Living God





pipers
corner SCHOOL

An
Independent
Day School
for girls
aged 4-18
situated in the
heart of the
Chilterns

ALWAYS MOVING

Forward

See for yourself how your
daughter can thrive in
our progressive learning
environment

OPEN MORNING

Friday 28 April 2023 | 1000-1300 hours

Register your interest here | pipers.sc/visitpipers

School Office

Inset Days for this academic year: -

Friday 10th February 2023

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.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Loose parts are an open-ended play resource providing infinite opportunities and possibilities for the creative mind.

We are committed to improving the children at Downley School's Reception Class play time resources, and by doing so we are introducing the use of 'loose parts' into our outdoor / indoor play space. Loose parts are materials that children can move, manipulate, control, combine, and change throughout their play. They enable children to experiment without a pre-determined outcome or a 'right' way to do things.

We are therefore beginning a loose parts collection from a range of materials that children can use in their play. *Please see our list below.* If you have any items, you wish to donate place them in the box outside our Early Years entrance. Please ensure all items are safe for children to handle. If you are unsure ask a teacher.

We look forward to setting up our loose parts play space for the children to explore. If you have any questions, you are welcome to ask a teacher, we'd be happy to help.

Thank-you for your support.

Kind regards, Mrs K Burns – Reception Teaching Assistant

**Loose Parts Play - Indoor
Request List**

- ☐ Beads
- ☐ Bottle Tops
- ☐ Cardboard Boxes
- ☐ Cotton Wool
- ☐ Glass Stones
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Googley Eyes
- ☐ Glitter
- ☐ Greeting Cards
- ☐ Pipe Cleaners
- ☐ Pom Poms
- ☐ Sponges
- ☐ Wrapping Paper
- ☐ Yoghurt Pots
- ☐ Acorns
- ☐ Bamboo
- ☐ Feathers
- ☐ Leaves
- ☐ Mud
- ☐ Pine Cones
- ☐ Pebbles

- ☐ Cutlery
- ☐ Lampshades
- ☐ Building Bricks
- ☐ Magnets
- ☐ Potato Masher
- ☐ Pillows
- ☐ Sheets
- ☐ Sieve
- ☐ Wallpaper
- ☐ Netting
- ☐ Ribbon
- ☐ Silk
- ☐ Shoelaces
- ☐ Tin Foil
- ☐ Velcro
- ☐ Wool
- ☐ Straws
- ☐ Chalk
- ☐ Corks
- ☐ Bottle Caps
- ☐ Curtain Rings or similar

**Loose Parts Play - Outdoor Request
List**

- ☐ Acorns
- ☐ Bamboo
- ☐ Feathers
- ☐ Leaves
- ☐ Mud / Compost
- ☐ Pine Cones
- ☐ Pebbles
- ☐ Shells
- ☐ Sticks
- ☐ Stones
- ☐ Tree Stumps – cut into
slices
- ☐ Baskets – small and large
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Clothes Pegs
- ☐ Ice Cube trays
- ☐ Cable Ties
- ☐ Guttering
- ☐ Hammer and Nails
- ☐ Crates
- ☐ Tyres
- ☐ Nuts and Bolts, washers

The Downley School Diary – 2022/2023

All dates below are provisional and subject to change.

More information to follow *

Green – PA events

2023

February		
Tuesday 7 th February	Energize rehearsal Year 5	
Friday 10 th February	Inset day	
Tuesday 14 th February	Safer Internet Day	in half term
Monday 13 th February- Friday 17 th February	Half Term	
Monday 20 th February	Back to school	
Wednesday 22 nd February - Friday 24 th February	Anti - Bullying Workshops	
Wednesday 22 nd February	Parent Consultations *	3.30 – 6.30pm
Thursday 23 rd February	Parent Consultations *	3.30 – 6.00pm
March		
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day	
Monday 6 th March	Energize rehearsal Year 5	
Tuesday 7 th March	Parent First Aid Workshop TDS+ Building	8.30 -12pm