



The Downley School

“Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together”

09th November Newsletter: Issue 013



Head Teacher's Comment

Dear All,

I have to say in writing this I could not be more proud to be the Head-teacher of our school. The Remembrance Assembly today really showed the values, talents and dedication of the whole school. The children were impeccably behaved, showing true respect for the important occasion. This behaviour was also shown with the Divali assembly on Tuesday. Pictures of these events will be placed on the website.

Within school, we are working hard to build on the Irresistible Curriculum and have had lots of reports that the children are coming home talking about their learning. What a great way for us all to share their educational journey. Our newsletter has been developed further to showcase more of what we are covering within school, as this has been requested. We will also be putting more footage on to show the learning and share our many successes.

Parking remains an issue for us as a school. I have been asked about this on many occasions. I would like to ask you all to think before you park please. We do have issues due to the geography of the school which further compounds the problem. I am happy to support a parent/carer group to resolve this, or you could all just think about it and the safety of the children! Let's work together before someone gets hurt.

I will end by saying how pleased I am to have extended my time with you and the children and look forward to learning, growing and succeeding together.

Reception

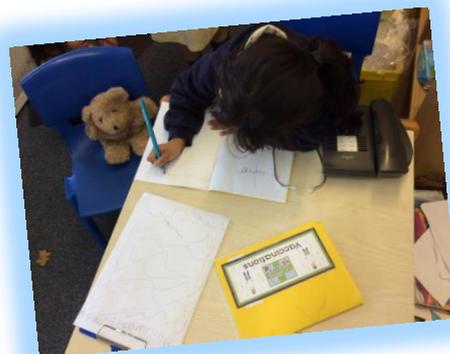
What an exciting week we have had! It all began with a wonderful story called 'Where's My Teddy?' where a poor boy called Eddy had lost his teddy named Freddy. He knew it must be in the woods, but he was awfully scared because it looked dark and horrible. So we decided we were brave enough to help him out and set out on our own little bear hunt adventure by visiting the woods and trying to find any clues that may lead us to Eddy's teddy.

This week, we have been learning all about bears to help us find him. We have been reading non-fiction books, understanding that there are different types of bear, creating bear collages of their habitat using a variety of materials, which happens to be the woods for a brown bear, and practising how to look after bears if they are poorly in our own bear hospital, where the bears may need injections, bandages or plasters from the many accidents that occur in the great outdoors.

Also, this week we have been learning a new value, which is slightly different to the rest of the school, of patience. We watched a very interesting video about 'The Marshmallow Test' where lots of children are given one marshmallow, but if they can wait and show great patience they will be given two marshmallows! Some of the children we watched had fantastic patience and earned another marshmallow, whilst others couldn't even wait a second! It taught us the value of patience and how tricky it can be to show in real life.

"Patience is when you have to wait quietly for somebody if they are doing something until they are finished and then you can talk to them." Oliver, Age 4.

We have been learning to have patience in class and have been lucky enough to hand out lots of Golden Tickets to children in Reception who have shown this value around the school.



Year 1

In Year 1 we have been looking at owls and where they live. We have read the story Owl Babies and are enjoying lots of drama activities and role play. The children have been doing lots of freeze frames to re-tell the story. They have pretended to be Bill who is the baby owl. The class then came up with questions they would ask Bill if he visited our School. The children then took part in hot seating to ask their questions and find the answers. This drama helped us in writing some sentences about the owl babies and how they were feeling. They have also used the drama to help them to re-write the story and we are focusing on the story having a beginning, middle and an end.

In Maths this week, we have been learning to add single digit numbers. We have been using number lines, counters, cubes and other mathematical resources to aid our learning. This has helped us to begin to write simple number sentences. We are starting to use the symbols + and = with growing confidence.

The children have been working hard on following the Values of the School as well as making the right choices. They are continuing to do this to ensure they get the best learning outcomes for all lessons. Our new target to get to the top of the ladder is to ensure we are tidying up better and as a team. We are working hard to work our class targets to help us move up the ladder again.

In Geography and Science, we have been learning about different types of animals. The children have been able to identify fish and mammals. They learnt that mammals have hair or fur and fish have scaly skin. We will continue to learn about other types of animals next week. We have continued to study owls at a greater depth. The children had the opportunity to investigate and decide if an owl could live in our school grounds.

The children are working extremely hard and we are very proud of all their achievements.

Year 2

We received another letter from the Wild Child! She has asked us to find out what animals live in the woods because one of them has been eating her food. We decided that we would write her an information report on different animals so that she can find out what animals it might be. In Science, we looked at Diurnal and Nocturnal animals that live in the woods; this information will be helpful for when we write our information text. In Maths we have been looking at written methods for addition and subtraction. We can use our reasoning skills to explain our answers and recognise key words when problems solving.

Mrs Richardson and Miss Kallionen

Year 3

Year 3 have been continuing their exciting learning journey and have demonstrated their understanding for some exciting new methods in Maths. They have worked enthusiastically to apply their extended knowledge of column addition and subtraction to solve word problems related to a book character and people they know. Some of the children have even created their own word problems for each other to solve.

We have also been discovering light and shadow in Science. The children have thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with torches in a dark room and discussing how light is projected and how shadows are formed. They have loved talking about how the distance of a light source can change the intensity of a shadow. Following on from this, the children have suggested and given their own ideas for how Stig (Of The Dump) could obtain his own light source in his cave.

In English the children have been exploring new situations faced by a character through drama and giving their opinions on what they think is right and wrong linked to Stig of The Dump. Everybody has thought carefully about how to use their body language to depict a scene from the story and shared their group freeze frames with others around them. This has positively inspired the children to talk about the events in a story. As a result of this interactivity, the children have been able to write some wonderful narratives about the interaction of characters in a book which they were all very keen to share with each other.

The children have worked in teams to build shelters competitively in our fantastic woodland area. They have used many natural materials around them such as twigs, logs, leaves and moss. Some of the shelters were life size and very sturdy! They have impressed everybody with their creations and brought back this learning into the classroom to experiment further with different shapes of shelters.

They have also worked collectively on a class rangoli pattern to develop their understanding of Diwali using paints, glitter and other craft materials.

The children have also had a chance to investigate more about Stone Age tools and used templates to create their own which has enhanced our class displays.

This week the children have been very enthusiastic about playing their own woodland games in the dell and using their knowledge of what they have learnt from instructions in English to write their own instructions for others to follow. We have also worked hard to create a large scale Remembrance Day silhouette poster which will be shown as part of our Remembrance Assembly on Friday.

Mr Rushant and Ms Rana

Year 4

All of the children have worked really hard last half term and it has been lovely to meet our supportive parents during Parents' Evening. Thank you for your on-going support.

Homework

All of your children now have their Mathletics and Times Tables Rockstars logins. We recommend times tables need to be practised at least several times a week to build up their speed of recall up to 12 x12. As discussed with the children, Mathletics will be set on a Friday and due for completion on the following Thursday morning. Full details of Year 4 objectives are now available on the website under the Year 4 blog.

<https://www.downley.bucks.sch.uk/page/?title=Welcome+to+Year+4&pid=326>

Spelling lists will be set on Friday for completion for the following Friday. (The children should have brought home a leaflet with some suggested ways to learn their spellings.)

Irresistible Curriculum & Learning

We are over halfway through reading 'Stig of the Dump'. Last week the children have been enjoying writing descriptions of the less desirable features of the sneaky 'Snarget' boys and we are continuing to research about survivalists Ray Mears and Bear Grylls (and are thoroughly enjoying using our new laptops in lessons to learn about the world around us!) We also looked at creative ways to develop shelters and survive outside if we had to go and join Stig's quarters! We also designed some interesting switches that Stig could use in a circuit to light up his shelter now the clocks have gone back!

Mrs Fyfe and Miss Ball

Year 5

In Year 5, the children have been creating fantastic information booklets on castles using technical vocabulary. They have used the classroom laptops to do further research of castles relating to maps skills in Geography. They have considered what life would have been like to live in a castle in the medieval period. Some thought they would be safe living behind the drawbridge and portcullis whereas other children felt hygiene standards needed to be improved.

In Maths the children have been learning about factors and multiples of numbers and how to apply them when using larger numbers. Also they are investigating prime and composite numbers with a view to creating their own number games! We hope to be sharing these with children lower down the school. We have finished our Science investigation and discussed at length what makes a fair test. The children then organised a scientific investigation exploring the best conditions for plant growth and explained their own conclusion from the results.



Some children have been learning Flanders Field for the Remembrance Assembly on Friday and have been practising a tradition hymn, Abide With me. They have also created their own lone soldier painting using paint and silhouette to go on display.

Mrs Richards and Ms Grace

Year 6

What a busy time we have had

Science work under the heading "Humans and Other Animals" is now underway and the children responded to a letter from Count Dracula, sent at Halloween. They explained to him about the different components of blood and reasons why it is good for him to drink! We will go on to investigate different body systems in the next few weeks.

Our "Into the Woods" topic, based on Michael Morpurgo's novel "Outlaw", continues as part of the Irresistible Curriculum. English work has had a non-fiction focus: the children really enjoyed writing and publishing information booklets about woodland animals, using all the necessary language and organisational features. Although we used the internet for research, we also made use of a range of library books to seek information. This week, we have put on our coats and wellies to spend time in the Dell, discussing and planning how Robin Hood and the Outlaws could build a shelter in the woodland to keep safe, warm and dry. This will lead to instructional writing.

In Maths this half term, we have been investigating the properties of 2D shapes with a focus on triangles, quadrilaterals and other polygons. This has included investigating, calculating, measuring and drawing angles. Mr Tapping continues to work with both classes on arithmetic and calculation skills, while Miss Stanbridge leads spelling investigations in both rooms.

We are delighted that Mrs Scanlon is returning this week and she will be working with focus groups in Maths on a Friday. We are sorry that Mathletics continues to be problematic in task setting, but the children are making sensible choices in the activities they choose (to tie in with classwork) and there is always the option to play live. Please remember that Times Tables Rock-stars should be continuing at home regularly and we have our weekly tables test on a Monday, as well as our spelling test. Children should be able to share spelling test errors with you as they have been asked to highlight any mistakes in their wordbooks.

This half term, Year 6 will be working on an animation project in Computer Studies and have made an excellent start already. They will practise their coding skills and knowledge of algorithms to design their own interactive stories. This is an exciting project with Miss Morrissey and using our new laptops in the classroom. We are really looking forward to seeing their finished pieces. This follows on from our previous project with the focus on internet safety. We will be starting to use the Imagination Studio to support other curriculum work.

There has also been the introduction of French into the Year 6 curriculum this half term with Mrs Lindridge and Miss Stanbridge. As a starting point, the children have designed eye-catching posters based on their fact finding about French life and culture which are now on display.

In RE with Mrs Lane and Mr Tapping, the new topic is entitled "Religion in the Community". The children are conducting surveys across the School about children's religious beliefs and faiths. The results will be collected and shown in graphs and charts. We have already made a human bar chart to represent the different world religions represented across Year 6. We have really enjoyed celebrating Diwali this week with Ms Taylor and her special assembly to mark the occasion. She made barfi sweets for every child in the school.

And finally, we have also found the time to prepare for the KS2 Remembrance Service and produced artwork on this theme which is on display in the hall. We looked at examples of real letters from World War 1. We also watched a DVD entitled "Our County at War: The Home Front in Buckinghamshire, 1914-1918" and were fortunate enough to meet and interview the ladies who researched and produced this fascinating film. They talked to us about how they gathered the information and the historical sources they used. Do ask your children about it. We learned so much about the impact of The Great War on the local area.

Following on from this, we are very proud to say that Lily and Tharul, as Head Girl and Head Boy, will be representing our school on Sunday evening at a special event which will take place on Downley Common to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1. This is part of a national event where beacons of light will be lit at 7pm across the United Kingdom to remember and commemorate this historic occasion. This should be featured in The Bucks Free Press, so do look out for it. If you have time, make sure you visit The Eden Shopping Centre this weekend (near the information desk) to see and vote for The Downley School poppy wreath on display alongside wreaths from other local schools.

Miss Stanbridge, Mrs Lindridge, Mr Tapping and the Year 6 team





Our First Blog by the Head Boy and Head Girl

This is our first blog. We are really excited to tell all of you guys about what is happening throughout The Downley School.

Last week we went to the governors' meeting and showed them our Power Points that persuaded the children of The Downley School to vote for us. It looked like they liked us; they thought our ideas were really good! After that, the Chair of Governors told us about what they do for our School which we shared back in class.

On Monday, we, with the Deputy Head Boy and Girl, helped to lead an assembly on the value of Empathy. We would like to thank Mrs Fyfe for inviting us to do so. We asked one of the students and they said it was much more interesting with the children doing it instead of 1 teacher doing the whole assembly. There were also some lovely girls from Year 4 who bravely came up to the front and performed a poem to the whole of Ks2.

Today we held our Remembrance Service where we paid tribute to the people who gave their lives for our country and others. This year marks 100 years since the end of World War One. There were readings, songs, poems, letters and quotes. We also had invited guests, including Flight Lieutenant Rebecca Collis from RAF Naphill who played the Last Post on the bugle to begin our minute's silence. We would like to thank all the staff who made this big idea a reality.

On Sunday, to mark the 100 years, there is a beacon on the Downley Common which will be lit at 7pm. Before they light the beacon, we (as the Head Boy and Girl) will be delivering a famous poem called Tribute to the Millions. We will be representing The Downley School and then we will take part in our minute of silence. Finally, the beacon will be lit by Sir Colin Terry! You are welcome to come along.

We would like to thank you for reading our first blog!

By Lily and Tharul

Sports - Mr MacKenzie

Football

These matches were played during October and November. Outcomes are detailed below:

Boys

Under 11's TDS - vs St Pauls - 1-0 – Won

Under 11's TDS - vs Ash Hill – 2-1 – Won

Under 11's TDS - vs High Wycombe CE– 0-1 –Lost

Under 10's TDS – vs Princes Risborough -5-1 – Won

Under 11's TDS - vs Highworth – 5-0 – Won

Under 11's 'A Team' TDS - vs Disraeli – 1-2 – Lost

Under 11's 'B Team' TDS - vs Disraeli – 6-1 – Won

Under 10's 'A Team' TDS - vs Disraeli – 2-2 – Drew

Under 11's 'B Team' TDS - vs Disraeli – 0-0 – Drew

Girls

On Saturday 3rd November, our girls' football team represented High Wycombe Schools in the County Finals. Despite playing really well, they lost their two games 0-1 against schools from Amersham and Aylesbury. They put in a fantastic effort in both matches and were great ambassadors for our school.

Bagel Mystery

Can I please make all Parents and Carers aware that during this term we have had a number of occasions where a bagel wrapped in tin foil has been found thrown into bushes outside school, before school starts. We have not been able to identify a child in school who is missing items from their lunch, but are concerned that a child may be disposing of food that their parents believe they are eating. The bagels are not on school property; therefore, it could be a local secondary school child who uses the alleyway outside school and who is throwing them. If you have any information or concerns regarding this, please contact me at school.

Wendy Carr

Family Worker

Switch Alcohol and Drug Service

Switch is an alcohol and drug service working with young people across Buckinghamshire. Switch offers support and information, and helps young people to develop life skills to make healthy choices around their alcohol and drug use - choices which are important to them.

Switch also provides support and information for the families and carers of young people who are struggling with substance misuse.

A poster for Switch Bucks, an alcohol and drug service for young people in Buckinghamshire. The poster features a colorful, abstract graphic of overlapping lines in shades of blue, purple, and pink at the top. The word "switch" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with a green power button icon to its right. Below the graphic, the text asks if the reader or someone they know is experiencing issues with alcohol or drugs. It then states that Switch Bucks, the alcohol and drug service for young people in Buckinghamshire, is now running drop-in sessions for 10 to 18 year olds. Two boxes provide details about the sessions: one for Tuesdays and Fridays at Youth Concern, The Uptown Coffee Bar, Whitehill Lane, Aylesbury HP19 8FL, and another for Mondays and Thursdays at Wycombe Mind Recovery Centre, 16-18 Easton Street, High Wycombe HP11 1NR. At the bottom, a green box provides contact information: a website (www.cranstoun.org/switch-bucks), an email address (switchbucks@cranstoun.org.uk), and a phone number (01494 527 000). The poster also includes a small logo for Cranstoun in the bottom right corner.

switch 

**Are you – or is someone you know –
experiencing issues with alcohol or drugs?**

**Switch Bucks, the alcohol and drug service for
young people in Buckinghamshire, is now running
drop-in sessions for 10 to 18 year olds**

**On Tuesdays and Fridays, the drop-in sessions will run from 3pm to 6pm at:
Youth Concern, The Uptown Coffee Bar, Whitehill Lane, Aylesbury HP19 8FL**

**On Mondays and Thursdays, the drop-in sessions will run from 3pm to 6pm at:
Wycombe Mind Recovery Centre, 16-18 Easton Street, High Wycombe HP11 1NR**

For more information, or to download a referral form, please visit our website:
www.cranstoun.org/switch-bucks
Or contact us via email or phone:
switchbucks@cranstoun.org.uk
01494 527 000



Let's get Bucks talking about fostering

For a lot of people, fostering is not something that is talked about on regular basis, if at all. Not everyone is aware that there are over 500 children in Buckinghamshire who rely on the County Council to provide them with a safe and secure foster home. We know that to give our children the home they deserve, our foster carers need to be kind, caring and committed to providing a safe and happy environment.

At Buckinghamshire County Council, we have an ongoing need to attract new foster carers to help look after the children and young people in our care and even if you don't want to foster yourself, you can still help the children in our care.

We want to get everybody talking about fostering, raising awareness, thinking about the people they know and whether it is something any of them could consider?

Our foster carers come from a wide variety of backgrounds; younger and older, single or a couple, working or not working, with their own children or without. There are no set criteria for what makes the perfect foster carer, they are generally just people like you or me. The only thing they have in common is a genuine desire to help a child to grow and thrive and a common goal to make a positive difference.

We know that word of mouth is one of the best ways of recruiting new foster carers and so we want to build on that and are asking you to help us by spreading the word to friends, family and your local school community. Ask any of our current foster carers why they foster with Bucks and they will happily tell you what an amazing experience it can be.

We truly value all our foster carers. We offer ongoing training, a generous allowance and treat them as part of the team.

To find out more about how you can help start a conversation about fostering contact us on: 0800 160 1900 or email: fosterwithbucks@buckscc.gov.uk For more information on fostering visit: www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering

Warren Whyte

Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Buckinghamshire Family Information Service

Buckinghamshire Family Information Service offers free, impartial information to families with children aged 0 to 19 years (or up to 25 years with a special educational need or disability), young people and professionals.

Childcare and Children's Centres

Search our Ofsted-registered online directory for childminders, nurseries, holiday, breakfast and after-school clubs. Find your nearest Children's Centre and search for sessions and activities.

Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Accessible SEND information including education, school policies, health, social care, activities, preparing for adulthood and support services. Co-produced with parents, carers, young people and professionals.

Things to Do

Discover things to do in Bucks, from family days out, sports, clubs and groups to school holiday activities. Search by age group, activity type, SEND inclusivity, location, town and free/low cost.

The service is accessible by website, social media, email, phone and in person via outreach.

Website: www.bucksfamilyinfo.org

Email: familyinfo@buckscc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01296 383065 (9am to 5pm Mon to Fri)

Social Media: Follow us on [Facebook](#) (BFIS), [Facebook \(Local Offer for SEND\)](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#)

Stars of the Week

KS1 Celebration Assembly 19th October – Stars of the Week

1H	Bella, Albert
1P	Imaan, Max
2K	Geroge, Eva
2R	Tommy, Phoebe
3R	Ryan, Aaviee
3KR	Issy, Addison

KS2 Celebration Assembly 2nd November – Stars of the Week

4F	Ryan, Evie
4B	Isra, Theo
5G	Mia, Vivaan
5JR	Mikail, Sonia
6LT	Ayaan, Martha
6S	Harrison, Zara



Golden Ticket Winners

Our golden ticket winner was Rohan on Friday 2nd November 2018 - Year 3

Attendance

Our attendance target is to reach 96.5% attendance for the year.

We are pleased to say that currently our whole school attendance is 96.88%, so we are on track for the end of Autumn.

Weekly Attendance Report for w/c 15th October 2018

Class	% Attendance	Class	% Attendance
RO	96%	RBT	97.33%
1H	97.67%	1P	97%
2K	99.33%	2R	96%
3KR	97.50%	3R	88.33%
4B	98.67%	4F	98%
5G	94.33%	5JR	97%
6L	97%	6S	93.10%

Well done to 2K for your 99.33% Attendance.

Weekly Attendance Report for w/c 29th October 2018

Class	% Attendance	Class	% Attendance
RO	98.33%	RBT	93.67%
1H	96.21%	1P	98%
2K	97.33%	2R	99.67%
3KR	95%	3R	95.77%
4B	100%	4F	98%
5G	96%	5JR	94.67%
6L	95.67%	6S	97.59%

Well done to 4B for your 100% Attendance



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

10.11.18	PA Event – Family Photo Session	9.00 – 5.00
12.11.18	Cycling Proficiency	During School Day
21.11.18	PA –Annual General Meeting	7.45 – 9.00 PM
01.12.18	Christmas Fair	12.00 –2.00
11.12.18	Nativity Performance - Foundation	1.30 – 2.30
11.12.18	Termly Reports to Parents	
13.12.18	Nativity Performance - Foundation	4.30 – 5.30
17.12.18	Festival of Carols – KS1/KS2	3.00 – 3.30
19.12.18	End of Term	Finish Normal Time
20.12.18 – 03.01.19	Half Term	
02.01.19	Inset Day	

BATTLE'S OVER



A NATION'S TRIBUTE

11TH NOVEMBER 2018

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

Beacons of light will be lit at 7pm across the United Kingdom on the 11th November 2018 to remember and commemorate the end of the war 1914 to 1918.

Please join us in remembrance of the many millions who were killed or wounded.

Location – The Beacon, Downley Common

Date and time – 11th November 2018, 6.45pm

Order of events

6.50pm - Reading of the Tribute to the Millions

~

6.55pm – Playing of The Last Post

~

7pm – Lighting of the WW1 Beacon of Light by Sir Colin Terry

Don't forget your torch and wrap up warm

Downley Parish Council and The Downley Common Preservation Society