



The Downley School

“Learning, Growing and Succeeding Together”

## 23<sup>rd</sup> November Newsletter: Issue 014

Our Value of the Month is...

*Empathy*

### Head Teacher's Comment

Dear All

We are so busy at The Downley School that it is difficult to decide how much we can include within our newsletter.

The children continue to impress me daily with their knowledge, care and ability. I have spoken to several groups this week that have chosen to undertake independent research within different areas to support the school, community and the environment. They are working through their breaks and at home to complete these. What a fantastic work ethic they have and they are building real life skills for the future. Well done to all of them.

I hope that you are enjoying the new style newsletter and that it fulfils the requests we have received. Our Twitter account is also back again, up and running and you will be able to follow and like the events across school. Our new email system is connected to the website and should make it easier and quicker to see and retrieve information for classes and the school. More information will follow next week.

Our school is a vibrant and exciting place to be which has been validated by visitors complimenting us on the children's behaviour and the learning environment. This was also seen within a very successful Governors' monitoring day which was completely led by the children. They were able to talk about the improvements within the school, what they are enjoying and what areas we need to work on. Their honesty always astounds me and how perceptive they are.

I would also like to thank the PA who continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the school.

# Reception

Babies, babies, babies. Reception have gone baby crazy! This week we have been learning all about babies. It seemed rather special because we have lots of children who have recently become resident experts as they have new little brothers or sisters, so they could be on hand for any advice. We have been learning about how to take care of them, discussed what we were like as babies and even had a chance to see lots of their amazingly cute baby faces! The children have been designing beautiful baby blankets, which was very exciting as we were able to use felt tip pens! Unfortunately, we had a giant pile of socks arrive in the class that belong to babies, children and adults which needed sorting, but thankfully we have some very clever kids that could help us out. Some of the babies in class were very dirty and we used our knowledge of how to look after babies to give them a bath and make them clean again. We have tried an array of baby foods and made attempts to guess what they are made of, developing our vocabulary around taste by using words like: sweet, salty, savoury, fruity or sour. We have also had the pleasure of enjoying lots of books around some rather special babies including Avocado Baby, The Elephant and the Bad Baby, Cave Baby, It's a Little Baby and Yoga Babies. These have inspired us to paint like cave baby would (outdoors with sticks, leaves and twigs), perform yoga moves just as the yoga babies might (stretching our bodies into bridges, downward dogs, butterflies, trees and cats) and discuss what foods might help us to become strong just like avocado baby (broccoli, orange juice or, apparently, lasagne).



# Year 1

In Year 1, it has been very exciting to take our learning down to the Dell and in the new Imagination Studio! The children received a letter from the Wild Child requesting their help as she has been up all night hearing strange noises. The children have been taking part in some amazing drama activities and imagining they were living in the wild. They had to think about how they would act and feel as different woodland animals and played this in role. This drama helped us to find out which animals could have been keeping the Wild Child awake! We then made a short video of the children's findings and who they think has been disturbing the Wild Child in her camp. We are now waiting patiently for a response from her and can't wait to hear what else is going on in the Wild Child's camp. If you want to know who has been keeping the Wild Child up then ask the children as they are very excited and will be able to talk to you about it in great detail.

In Maths this week, we have been identifying the values of different coins and notes. We have discussed ways in which we use money on a daily basis. We have also been working hard to recognise the different coins to then make any given amount. The children are now very eager and excited to help their families pay for groceries or shopping when they visit their local stores.

The children have been working hard on following the Values of the school as well as making the right choices. This week, in particular, we have been looking at school safety procedures and have been practising what would happen in given situations. The children have taken this very seriously and have been able to participate in these practices with great maturity. We are very proud of all the children for doing this. They are superstars!

In Computing and Art, we have been learning how to log on to the Purple Mash website and have had great fun exploring it. We have also started to study an Artist called Jackson Pollock and have had lots of fun getting messy and creating our own art work based around him. The children's artwork is stunning!

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

# Year 2

## Howling Heard

Last week the Wild Child went on an adventure to look for places she may like to build her next home. She travelled across countries and was so tired she camped down in a forest. During the night, she heard howling in the distance, recorded the sound and sent a letter for the Year Twos to find out what it could be. The Year Twos unanimously decided the howling was from a wolf. They gathered facts about wolves and wrote a letter back to the Wild Child warning her of the dangers. The children found out the wolves were nocturnal and decided to learn more about time in Maths. They practised reading clock times by playing What's The Time Mr Wolf? and also developed in their ability to read half past and quarter past.

In order to keep the Wild Child safe, the children researched where else wolves can be found around the world and in doing so, the children learnt the names of the different continents. They even learnt about Brazil, south of the Equator, as an alternative option for the Wild Child to move to as we head into our winter.

Did you know that when we have our winter in the UK, it's actually summer in countries South of the Equator! Can you name any other countries south of the Equator?

Well done to Imogen, who demonstrated great coding skills and was able to make her aeroplane take off. This term, we have been using Purple Mash during our Computing lessons and we are becoming super coders. We are also learning coding vocabulary; words include debug, actions, command and algorithm. Can you tell an adult what these words mean?

# Year 3

## Homework

Please see below a summary of Homework expectations.

	<b>Set</b>	<b>Due in</b>
<i>Mathletics</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<i>Timestable Rockstars</i>	<i>Daily for 5 min if chn do not know x3, x4, x8</i>	
<i>Spelling</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Friday (incl test)</i>
<i>Learning Logs</i>	<i>Friday (self-select)</i>	<i>Friday (last one 7.12)</i>

Please could parents and carers regularly sign their Reading Book, after discussing books with children. Books are only changed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Full details of Year 3 objectives are now available on the website under the Year 3 blog.

<https://www.downley.bucks.sch.uk/page/?title=Welcome+to+Year+3&pid=307>

Year 3 have been researching woodland animals on the internet to create their own non-chronological reports. We hope the children have been sharing their new knowledge at the dinner table!

We have challenged ourselves to learn more about short division, time and Roman numerals recently. Therefore, please encourage the children to share their skills when you are out and about! (Eg. What time is it? What Roman numerals can you recognise?)



In Science, we have started to learn about skeletons and the different bones in our bodies. The children will enjoy explaining more accurately different types of bones – not just their funny bone!

## Year 4

### **Homework**

Please see below a summary of Homework expectations.

	<b>Set</b>	<b>Due in</b>
<i>Mathletics</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
<i>Timestable Rockstars</i>	<i>Daily for 5 min if chn do not know up to 12 x12</i>	
<i>Spelling</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Friday (incl test)</i>
<i>Learning Logs</i>	<i>Friday (self-select)</i>	<i>Friday (last one 7.12)</i>

Please could parents and carers regularly sign their Reading Book, after discussing books with children. Books are only changed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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>

### **Irresistible Curriculum & Learning**

We have worked hard to develop our handwriting skills this term and this is evident from our fantastic work, writing an alternative chapter for Stig of the Dump. We are starting to use fronted adverbials and multi-clause sentences in our writing now which makes our work much more interesting to the reader. Using our computing skills, we have also designed a survival guide filled with helpful information on how to survive in the woods!



We have learnt how to use column addition and subtraction, and short multiplication this term – we enjoyed consolidating this learning in a treasure hunt outside this week! Please keep looking out for our regular tweets.



In Science, we will be looking at the digestive system and teeth this term, and have asked the children to bring in some small items for junk modelling over the next week. (Eg. Yogurt pots, empty kitchen towel rolls, etc.) We will also be sending home regular Science vocabulary at the start of each unit.

# Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy two weeks! On Thursday 8th November, Year 5 went on a trip held by the charity 'Show Racism the Red Card.' The children responded with interest to the topics covered and on return wrote about what they had learnt during the day.

The following was written by Lily, Amy and Luke:

..... Menisha, one of the tutors, taught us not to judge people or make assumptions because of how people looked. She taught us not to jump to conclusions about race, skin colour, culture and nationality. We learnt that racism comes from ignorance. On the back of her jumper was a quote from Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon and can change the world." The Wycombe Wanderers' Education staff taught us about fair play in football by kicking the ball out if someone is hurt, clap the goalie if he makes a good save and shake hands at the start and end of the game .....

Linking in with our Robin Hood text, Outlaw, the children have been learning about the Magna Carta and its importance in many of our modern day laws. Wei Jet in 5G wrote about what he discovered about the Magna Carta.

## **The Magna Carta**

### ***What is the Magna Carta?***

The Magna Carta was a scroll that was made in the Robin Hood times (around 15th June 1214). It is one of the most important documents in Great Britain because it laid the foundation for democratic laws that we have for the injustice system, courts and government.

### ***What is the point of Magna Carta?***

The point of Magna Carta is that King John was raising tax prices making too many new but bad rules and it had all the terms on for King John it was signed on 15th June 1215 but the whole thing started 1 year before (June 12th 1214).

### ***What was the Magna Carta law?***

The Magna Carta law was the most important sentence in Britain which is Clause 39 is "No free man shall be seized or stripped of his possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other of his standing in any other way, nor we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals of the land". The first bit meant people were legally kidnapped and were thrown in jail. The second bit meant houses were burnt and people died.

### ***What are the rights guaranteed by the Magna Carta?***

The rights were that people's property shouldn't get stolen, people's property stolen should be given back, people could live where they want, houses shouldn't be burnt down, animals shouldn't get stolen, people shouldn't be outlawed, no one shouldn't be seized, beaten up and many more. All them were protected by the barons so if King John broke them the barons would lock him up.

### ***How does the Magna Carta affect the world today?***

It affects the world today because it laid the foundations for our modern democratic societies.

### ***Conclusion***

I think it was helpful because it went on to America than Australia and many other countries then it helped people make laws.

By Wei-Jet

In Science the children explored the woodland Dell to find examples of conifers, moss and ferns and they used branching keys for identification and classification of the species. The children have also created some Power Point presentations using the class laptops, having researched plant life in different environments: sea plants, desert plants, rainforest plants and prehistoric plants. We have found out how plant adaptations are needed for successful growth under certain conditions.

## Year 6

We have been busy as ever in Year 6. Learning Logs homework activities are well underway with a focus on our current Science topic: Humans and other Animals. We hope that you found the information sheet we sent home containing key ideas and concepts to be supportive. We have been designing posters that outline the main functions of the heart in the circulatory system. This followed input and discussion in class. The homework tasks are compatible with this. Future lessons will investigate this area in a practical way, including what happens to the human pulse rate before, during and after exercise. We will also be researching the pulse rate of other animals.

In English, we have written detailed guidance (instructional writing) based on the title How To Build A Survival Shelter. The work has been edited and improved before being published as part of our Into the Woods topic. We have taken the opportunity to practise and apply the new marking policy that we have in school. Using a checklist, the children have been prompted to consider and use all the language and organisational features that are required in this text type. We are very pleased with the outcomes and have shared these in class. We have also exercised our practical skills as part of Outdoor Learning. Following a return visit to the Dell, the children used the materials they gathered to construct models of shelters suitable for Robin Hood and the Outlaws. We will be uploading photos to our class blog when they are finished.

With regard to reading comprehension, lots of lovely new books have arrived in the Year 6 classroom libraries. We have deliberately purchased titles that will provide greater levels of challenge for even the most fluent readers – both in terms of their content and also the language used. Each child has received a copy (to read and discuss with an adult at home) and also to write a book review for other class members. Most of the titles distributed are classic and modern classic texts covering different genres. We hope you enjoy reading them with your children.

In Maths, we have now completed activities around drawing, measuring and calculating angles, inside and outside different polygons, both regular and irregular. We have moved onto a new unit with the focus on estimating answers and recognising different situations and problems where finding approximations would be a sensible option. We have use rounding and other strategies. Explaining the reasoning behind estimations is another key skill that has been covered. Next week's unit will have a focus on mental calculations using the four rules of number.

Finally, this has been Enterprise Week in school. We are starting to plan ahead to what the Year 6 Charity Fund Raising Project will entail in both classes later this year. At this stage, we are gathering ideas and suggestions for us to consider and vote on. Another topic for future discussion across Key Stage 2 is the "Great Homework Debate". Tharul, Lily, Zara and Daniel are working closely with our school governors to organise this forthcoming event. The Head Boy and Girl and Deputies have lots of ideas on how to proceed and will keep you informed via their fortnightly blogs.





## Blog by the Head Boy and Head Girl

Hello,

It's us once again, Lily and Tharul, with an update about what's happening around the school. We would like to start by telling you about our Remembrance Service and other amazing things we have in store for you!

The KS2 Remembrance Service was a massive hit with the public and parents. There were many readings by the pupils of The Downley School. Everyone was very sympathetic towards the soldiers whose sacrifices enable us to live free lives and to be happy that there is no conflict going on in our country. Also, we had special visitors who had made a short film about Bucks and the impact people living in the county made towards the Great War. They gave a free copy of their DVD to four of the schools in Bucks and we were one of them. Year 6 also had the chance to interview them about their Project.

Thank you so much if you attended the beacon lighting on Sunday, 11th November 2018 to celebrate the 100 years since the end of World War 1. We were pleased to see many people there. Both of us were honoured to be part of this special occasion and to deliver readings – The Tribute to the Millions.

We are now working with governors to organise The Great Homework Debate. We will be keeping you updated on this event. We are thinking how pupils, staff and parents can participate in debating teams, but we are still planning and confirming details with the governors.

Thank you for reading this. Zara and Daniel (Deputy Head Girl and Boy) will write again in a fortnight's time.

Lily and Tharul

# General Information

## Remembrance Service

I was delighted with our Remembrance Choir who performed beautifully during our service. The children sang their harmonies beautifully and with enthusiasm and I look forward to working with them for future performances.

Miss Ball

## Clubs

Thank you to the children who have shown an interest in clubs. The teachers are currently compiling responses and where clubs are oversubscribed, we will create a rotation list so all can be involved over the academic year.

# Sports - Mr MacKenzie

## Games & Update Clubs

Under 10/11 Football clubs have stopped for the winter break although it is still hoped that we may organize a couple of matches before we restart our season in early February.

Netball club continues to operate as the girls prepare for league and tournament fixtures in the New Year.

Table Tennis club is currently operating for Year 6 children on a Tuesday afternoon.

## PE

In PE lessons children are eagerly awaiting the start of Cross Country runs in December.

## Family Worker

### Young Carers' Awards 2018

“On Tuesday we were invited to Wycombe Wanderers Football Ground to attend the Young Carers in Bucks Awards 2018. This event was a celebration of local schools' commitment to Young Carers in Bucks. We were really proud to receive the Schools' Award: a certificate, trophy and a new game to play in our group. We celebrated with lots of other Young Carers and enjoyed drinking hot chocolate with cream and eating muffins. DJ Dan was there to entertain us with music, quizzes and games. One of us got to take part in the balloon model making contest. It was great.”

TDS Young Carers



# The School Office

## ***Christmas Dinner***

Christmas dinner will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. We are combining Christmas Jumper Day with Christmas dinner this year so your child can come wearing a Christmas jumper. If you would like your child to have Christmas dinner, you will need to order via the Innovate website. If you have already ordered a school dinner for the 12<sup>th</sup>, please go into the Innovate website and amend your order.

## ***Safeguarding***

In order to ensure the safeguarding of all pupils, we ask that all visitors report to the school office when arriving on site. Please do not enter the building without a member of staff.

## ***Parking***

We have received serious complaints from residents and parents regarding dangerous driving and parking on the roads surrounding the school site. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the Highway Code to ensure the safety of children and the general public. Local community officers are being notified of the parking issues, particularly around Faulkner Way.

A REMINDER THAT NO PARKING IS PERMITTED ACROSS THE ENTIRE SCHOOL SITE. YOU SHOULD NOT BE DROPPING YOUR CHILD OFF BY CAR WITHIN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. THIS WILL BE MONITORED ACROSS THE WHOLE SITE.

## ***Absence Line***

The office is open between 8.30 and 4.00. If you need to leave a message outside of these hours, please leave your message on the absence line option 1.

## ***Lunches***

We have had a number of children who have not been ordered a hot lunch or been provided with a packed lunch this week. Please ensure you complete the online lunch booking form by Sunday to ensure your child has meals for next week unless you wish to provide him or her with a packed lunch. Thank you.

## ***Parent Governor Ballot***

The ballot closes on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. All parents are entitled to one vote.

If you would like to vote, but do not have ballot paper, then these are available on reception together with an envelope for you to place in the ballot box.

## ***Communications via Email***

Having reviewed the email communication in school we have created for **PARENTS ONLY** a dedicated email address. From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 please use ***enquiries@thedownleyschool.co.uk***. **You will receive automatic response to your email. We will respond to emails within five days unless it is urgent.**

We have a new email communication system to replace Parentmail. Correspondence will be sent out next week to advise you of these changes.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience whilst we implement this change. Any correspondence in the meantime will be sent out via letter in the book bags.

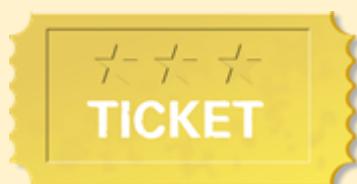
# Stars of the Week

## KS1 Celebration Assembly 8<sup>th</sup> November – Stars of the Week

1H	Amelia, Benjamin
1P	Finlay, Isabelle
2K	James, Adelene
2R	Tiah, Eileen
3R	Jay, Aaviee
3KR	Ciaran, Kaavya

## KS2 Celebration Assembly 16<sup>th</sup> November – Stars of the Week

4F	Roshni, Freddie
4B	Lucy, Akain
5G	Holly, Freddie
5JR	Aryan, Isabella, Mikail
6LT	Ayub, Methmi
6S	William, Emily



## Golden Ticket Winners

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November was Charles 3R

&

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November was Rhoan 4B

## Attendance

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

## Weekly Attendance Report for w/c 15<sup>th</sup> 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	94.67%	5JR	97%
6L	97.33%	6S	93.45%

Well done to 2K for your 99.33% attendance.

## Weekly Attendance Report for w/c 29<sup>th</sup> 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

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	
12.12.18	Christmas dinner & Christmas Jumper Day	
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	
08.01.19	Open Day – New Starters - Reception	10.00 – 11.30



## Wycombe Homeless Connection

Patron: Countess Howe, DL



Ms F Taylor  
Interim Headteacher  
The Downley School  
Faulkner Way  
Downley  
High Wycombe  
HP13 5AL

24<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Ms Taylor,

### Thank you for supporting Wycombe Homeless Connection!

We would like to give a huge thank you to all the staff, pupils and parents at The Downley School for the amazing donation of food and household items. Your donated items will help people who are facing homelessness during this coming winter months, whilst some of the items will go to our January to March winter night shelter. You are part of an amazing movement that is joining together to make an impact on homelessness in our community.

We see and help around 500 people every year who are homeless or facing eviction. Our fundamental belief is that every individual has worth and should have the chance of a fresh start, no matter what their situation. So, every working day our team of staff and volunteers are helping people move forward with their lives. Your donation sustains this ongoing work and we are glad you are partnering with us in this very challenging climate.

If you know of anyone else who would like to hear more about our work or more ways that they can get involved, then please ask them visit our website [www.wyhoc.org.uk](http://www.wyhoc.org.uk) or email us at [contact@wyhoc.org.uk](mailto:contact@wyhoc.org.uk).

Thank you once again for supporting us, you all are amazing!

Yours sincerely,

Seng Pin Lee  
Communications Officer  
Wycombe Homeless Connection

# HELPING TO REBUILD LIVES



With thanks to

## THE DOWNLEY SCHOOL

For your amazing harvest gift of household items

Thank you on behalf of  
all of us at WHC!

**OCTOBER 2018**

*Sheena Dykes*

**SHEENA DYKES  
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES**



**WYCOMBE  
HOMELESS  
CONNECTION**  
Registered charity 1156211

