



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs A Bates BA (Hons) QTS & Mrs M Ford BA (Hons) QTS



Friday 8th of September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1/2, we are really excited to be teaching your children this year. Whether you are starting Key Stage One, new to the school, or an experienced member of the school community, this letter will provide you with some guidance on how things run in Year 1/2.

Classes

Below is information of the class teacher structure for each class.

Dormice class	Mrs Guilfoyle	Miss Gardiner
Foxes class	Miss Till	Miss Gayle
Hedgehogs class	Miss Brown	Mrs Pollard

Reading

In Key Stage One, we place high importance on reading at home as well as in school. The more practise your child has reading, the more fluent they will become. Whilst we teach the children the skills needed to read such as the phonic sounds and comprehension, they will need you at home to listen to them on a regular basis to practise to embed their learning. We ask that your child reads to an adult at least **five** times per week at home and that you sign and date the Reading Record to say that they have done this. Reading is not just about decoding the text, but also about understanding what has been read. We have attached a copy of comprehension questions you might ask your child whilst hearing them read or whilst reading to them.



Reading records are checked and books changed on a **Monday** and **Thursday**. In order to build reading fluency, particularly in Year 1, it is important that your child rereads books in order to decode quicker and build their understanding of the text. **If the reading record is not signed to say the book has been finished, it will not be changed.** Children who have read at least five times in the past week, will be in with the chance of winning a raffle ticket and the title of Reader of the Week. They will then be entered into the Reader of the Term raffle draw. They will have the chance to win a trip to The Rocket Book shop in Salisbury to choose a book as a gift for their achievement, along with a hot chocolate at Boston Tea Party.

Star words:

Year 1 will continue to bring home star words to practise. These are the common exception words (tricky words) from our phonics scheme that the children should be able to read fluently by the end of the year. Each term, we will send home a new list of words attached to the front of their Reading Record for the children to learn.

Library books:

During Key Stage One, we visit the school library on a weekly basis. The children are encouraged to choose a book to take home and share with their families. Please ensure your child brings back their



library book on their library day so that they may choose a new one. If your child doesn't return their book, they will still go to the library but will not be able to check a book out to go home.

Dormice class visit the library on a Friday
Foxes class visit the library on a Monday
Hedgehogs class visit the library on a Wednesday

Spellings

Spellings will be set Monday and tested on a Friday. Space is provided in their home spelling book for them to learn these every day of the school week. Please ensure children come to school with their spelling books on **Friday** for the weekly spelling test.

Home-learning:

Children in Key Stage One are expected to read at least 5 times a week and practise their weekly spellings. As well as this, they will have three maths games assigned to them on Purple Mash (Log ins will be sent home in Reading Records) and a termly project on their Knowledge Organiser to complete and learn the facts.

Knowledge Organisers

Each Term, your child will be sent home with a Knowledge Organiser for their topic. At Downton Primary School, we use Knowledge Organisers (KOs) in class and as homework to help children learn the essential knowledge, for each topic they study. A Knowledge Organiser sets out in detail what we want children to know by the end of the topic. In school, we expect the majority of children to be able to recall all of the information on the KO by the end of each term. Please help your child with this by playing games or by asking multiple choice questions using the sheet. This learning will be reviewed in class using low stakes quizzes. It is also useful for children to go back to previous KOs and revise these so that the information from previous learning is not forgotten. Children will be asked to write about this learning in class at the end of each term. There is also a topic map which includes all of the learning that they will have over the half term.

Teachers and lessons

Our PPA (planning, preparation and assessment time) is on a Thursday afternoon. Over the year, the children will have a rotation of either: Science, taught by our Science specialist Mrs Wells; PE, taught by our Sports Coach Mr Hamilton; or Art/DT, taught by our Art teacher Mrs Townsend during this time.

Water bottles

Hydration is incredibly important - we ask that all children bring a water bottle filled with water only to school every day. This can be kept in the classroom, and we will encourage them to drink regularly. Water bottles should be brought home and then washed and back to school the following day.

Snacks

In Key Stage One, children are provided with a fruit snack at playtime. Children can, however, bring their own snack for playtime should they wish to. This must be fruit or vegetables – fresh or dried, chocolate and crisps are not permitted. We have been really impressed with the healthy snacks that the children have been bringing into school. Please note that to protect children with allergies we are a nut free school.



Toys

Please note that we do not encourage children to bring toys into school as these can create a distraction and may get damaged or lost. If your child requires a toy for a specific purpose e.g. a fidget toy, this will need to be agreed with the class teacher.

Uniform/ PE kits

We consider it important that our pupils are well dressed and believe a uniform looks smart and adds to the children's sense of identity and belonging at school. Parental support in this respect is greatly appreciated. Our School Uniform Policy can be found on the School website. The children will need to come to school in PE kits on the following days:

Dormice class:	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Foxes class:	Tuesdays and Fridays
Hedgehogs class:	Wednesday and Thursdays

Bags

Due to the increasing size of bags and room in our corridors, we kindly ask that children **only use a book bag or a small rucksack** in Key Stage One. We understand they may need to bring in a small P.E bag, if they are attending an after school sports club. They will only require a bag suitable in size for their reading book, snack, their spelling book and their library book.

Communication

Parental engagement is vital to success in a child's education, and we are looking forward to working closely with you all. All three classes have their class page on the school website, where you will find copies of our Topic Map, Knowledge Organiser and termly photographs of our learning. We also use Seesaw as a means of communicating. Please feel free to upload any pictures your child wants to share of them learning at home. You can also use Seesaw to upload home learning projects from the knowledge organiser. Please use the admin email below to contact class teachers, not Seesaw.

There will be three parents evening where we can discuss your child's progress. If at any point throughout the year you need to contact your child's class teacher, please email admin@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk who will ensure your message is forwarded to the correct member of staff or feel free to catch your child's class teacher on the playground at the end of the school day.

Dates for the Fridge - Year 1/2:

KS1 parent workshop	21 st September 2023
Parents evening	25 th and 28 th September 2023
Hungerford Castle trip	Foxes: 2 nd October 2023 Dormice: 3 rd October 2023 Hedgehogs: 4 th October 2023
Castles dress up day	Tuesday 17 th October 2023
End of term 1	Tuesday 17 th October 2023
TD Day	Wednesday 18 th October 2023
Start of term 2	Monday 30 th October 2023
Stick man	Friday 1 st December 2023
Christmas Extravaganza	Friday 1 st December 2023
KS1 Nativity	Monday 11 th December 2023 Tuesday 12 th December 2023
Christmas lunch and jumper day	Tuesday 19 th December
Church service and end of term 2	Wednesday 20 th December

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Guilfoyle, Miss Till & Miss Brown

