

The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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Early Years Newsletter

Friday 16th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back, it has been lovely to see you all back smiling. We hope you enjoyed the Easter break – the children have been excited to tell us what they have been up to.



Acorn Class have started to learn about animals which will be an area of interest for this half term. This week, we focused on pets. We talked about what the word 'pet' means and decided it was an animal that you welcomed into your home (inside or out) to live! We were very surprised about some of the animals that people may choose to keep as pets. We looked at and talked about features such as fur, scales, feathers, tail, number of legs, claws and whiskers. We will continue to learn about pets next week and have some exciting pets ready to come and visit us each day. Children will be encouraged to look at and stroke the pets if they want to but we understand that not all children will be comfortable with this. If you have any concerns, please speak to Ms McCabe.

In **Phonics**, we have learnt the letter sound 'h' and recapped the letter sounds we have learnt so far. The children are starting to understand that the letter sounds we are learning are connected with the letters that we see in words such as our name. Some children can really listen and hear the first sound in words which is fabulous!

In **Maths**, we have focused on most popular and least popular by finding out which animal is our favourite pet in Acorn Class. We will post the results onto Tapestry. See if your child can tell you the most popular pet and the least popular pet. The children also had a go at asking their friends to help them fill in their own pictogram.

 **Tapestry home learning task:** Thank you to the parents who completed some or all of the Spring homework. It was wonderful to see what you had been doing. This weekend, I really need your help!

- Please post a photo of your bean plant so we can see how it is growing. (If you need a bigger pot, please let us know). The children are loving looking at everyone else's plants.

- If you have a pet at home, please take some photos of it, what it sleeps in/on, the food it eats, what it lives in and anything else needed for the pet so we can talk about these in Nursery. A lot of the children have told us they have a pet at home so it would be lovely to share photos with the rest of the class.



Holly and Mulberry Classes have been recapping all sounds and tricky words this week in **phonics**. We have learnt a new tricky word '**were**' and have been writing this in a short caption/sentence. During the summer term we will be focusing on supporting children to become as independent as possible in their writing and phonics. We have been looking at words containing 4 sounds. We call these CVCC words (consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant). Examples of these include – list, desk, nest, sand etc. Please practise writing these words at home with your child. Can they write a sentence using a cvcc word?

In **maths**, we have been looking at length, height and distance. The children have been using mathematical terms relating to this e.g. tall short, taller, shorter, tallest, shortest, long, longer, longest, closest, furthest, closer, further. Can the children use these words to describe objects around the house, e.g. the pencil is longer than the toy car?

Theme



For the next few weeks we are going to be learning about Dinosaurs. We are focusing on the story 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs' and are starting to learn the different names of dinosaurs and what they were like. We have been talking about how dinosaurs are now 'extinct' and were around in the past. We have been making our own dinosaurs and thinking about what they look like. We have spoken about what we already know about dinosaurs and what we want to find out over the next few weeks.



Tapestry home learning task:

Can you find some items around your home and put them in order according to their size? What is the biggest? What is the smallest? Can you use the language of big, small, bigger, smaller, biggest, smallest to explain your ordering?

Finally – Thank you if you uploaded onto Tapestry during the Easter Holidays. It was lovely to see what you have all been up to. If your child would like to ask any dinosaur questions, please post them on Tapestry and we can answer them during our school day. We are sorry for being quiet on Tapestry recently. Unfortunately, we have been experiencing some ICT problems. We have now resolved this and we will be uploading Tapestry posts as normal from this week. We can't wait for you to see what we have been getting up to. The children are certainly enjoying our new topic around dinosaurs, we hope you agree!

Outside area

Thank you for ensuring children are not playing with any of our outside learning equipment at the end of the day. A lot of time has been spent over the Easter break trying to improve the outside area. Over the next few weeks, you will continue to see changes. We are trying hard to ensure children can access the best learning opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom.

Days to remember!

Monday	 Holly PE day
	 Acorns to bring book bags in
Wednesday	 Mulberry PE day
	  Please remember that Holly and Mulberry class change reading and library books today so all books must be returned on this day. Your child should bring in their wallets everyday when they are in school.
Thursday	 Acorn PE day. Please make sure your child comes in dressed in comfortable clothes to do PE.

Have a lovely weekend,

The Early Years Team