

The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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Early Years Newsletter

Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We have come to the end of a lovely week in Early Years. The children have enjoyed using the outside area more and we are now able to provide more experiences that we were unable to previously due to the pandemic. It is an expectation that **all children within Early Years** should have a bag with a full set of spare clothing at school including, underwear and socks/tights in case they need to change. This may be because of toileting accidents but more likely to be due to water or messy play. Recently, a lot of emergency school clothes have been lent out and not returned. If your child has needed to borrow some of our clothing, please bring it back as soon as possible. Bags for reception class children can be left at school, however Nursery children will need to bring their bag with them every day. Clothing does not need to be uniform if you don't have spare. Thank you for working with us.



Acorn Class have had an AMAZING week learning about a range of pets with lots of hands-on experience. We looked carefully at each pet and talked about their features: tail, legs, whiskers, scales, teeth etc. We compared the pets and talked about the number of legs each one had which meant counting as well as using words like 'more' or 'less.' We thought about the letter sounds we could hear when we said the name of the animal. We counted the number of syllables as we said the animal's name too. The children then used what they had learnt and drew pictures of each pet and some children also chose to paint pictures of them too!

Thank you if you sent photos in of your bean plant and also of any pets that are at home. We really appreciate your time and joined up learning helps to consolidate what they have already learnt at Nursery. We will continue to learn about pets next week as the children are so engaged!



Tapestry home learning task:

Please take time over the weekend to look at your child's Tapestry account and talk with them about what they saw each day. There is a post from each day this week with photos, information, and your child's work. Please respond to the house point opportunities mentioned in each post.



Holly and Mulberry Classes have been recapping all sounds and tricky words this week in **phonics**. We have learnt the new tricky words **'when'** and **'there'** and have been writing these in a short caption/sentence. We have been writing 4 phoneme words and sounding these out. The children are now starting to hear all sounds in words. Please continue to practise writing 4 phoneme words at home e.g. lift, melt, short, long etc. We have been encouraging children to be independent during phonics and writing tasks and use their phonics knowledge and environment to support them.

In **maths**, we have been looking at time. The children have been learning to tell the time using clocks and have been learning the terms o'clock and half past. The children have grasped this really well and would benefit from being asked at home regularly.

Theme

We have continued our dinosaur theme and this week we have been learning some characteristics of dinosaurs e.g. long neck, sharp teeth, blunt teeth. The children have learnt that some dinosaurs ate meat (carnivores) and some ate trees (herbivores) and some dinosaurs ate both (omnivores). The children have been learning a special dinosaur song in Music which we will be putting onto Tapestry for everyone to hear. We have also been learning different dinosaur dances in PE which the children have really enjoyed.



Tapestry home learning task:

Design your own dinosaur. Use what you have learnt about dinosaurs so far to design your own breed of dinosaur. What does it look like? Does it have a long neck? Will it have sharp teeth? You may show us your dinosaur in whichever way you like e.g., drawing, sculpting, junk modelling or construction. After you have created your dinosaur, can you write us some sentences about it. What does it eat? What is its name? How old is it? Can it fly?

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