

# The Downs Primary School and Nursery

The Hides, Harlow, Essex, CM20 3RB.

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Dear

## Mulberry and Holly Class Newsletter



Parents/Carers

This week we have....

### In Maths

We have been looking at the numbers six and seven.

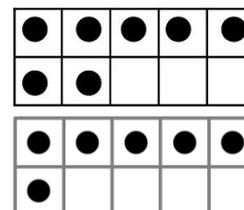
We have focussed on how we can arrange six and seven objects. We provided a selection of loose items

(buttons, shells etc.) and asked each child to choose 6. The children were then asked to arrange their set of six or seven objects on the carpet in front of them. We called 'Switch!' and ask them to find a different way to arrange their items. We asked them 'What do you notice?'



Try this challenge at home:

Using the 10 frame that your child brings home and a selection of objects - pasta shapes, buttons, Lego bricks - ask your child to put the six objects on the Tens Frame.



*Is this the only way to put six/seven items on your frame? Do they look different?*

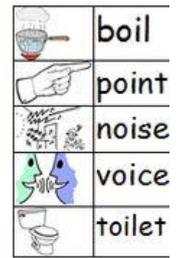
Take photos or draw pictures of the different ways the six or seven objects fit into the Tens Frame.



## Phonics

This week we have been learning the sounds 'oi' (as in coin) and 'er' (as in 'herd' and 'under'). We have also been learning the new tricky word 'like'

At home:



On YouTube type 'phase 3 tricky words' and enjoy listening to some tricky word songs. Can your child write the tricky words down as you see them?

Can your child find something in your house that is unusual and identify the sounds in it, for example; we have looked at a 'coil' this week. Talk about the unusual item and what it is used for. You can post your unusual findings on tapestry.



Collect milk bottle lids and write words on these that contain different digraphs – then encourage your child to read the words and sort into words with different digraphs.

Play noisy letters – use flash cards and say a sound – then your child can think of or write as many words with that sound as they can in one minute. Who can get the most words?

Also this week....

## Dinosaurs

We have been reading fiction and non-fiction books about dinosaurs. We have learnt that they lived millions of years ago and we have used the words carnivore (meat eaters), herbivore (plant eaters) and omnivore (meat and plant eaters).

At home:

Create a list of foods a herbivore dinosaur might eat if they were alive today

Create a list of foods a carnivore dinosaur might eat if they were alive today.

Create a Dinosaur Menu. Be as creative as you can!



Visit your local library and find some non-fiction books about dinosaurs and find out some dinosaur facts for example; which dinosaur was the fastest, slowest, biggest and smallest? Choose your favourite dinosaur and write five interesting facts about it.

## House Points and Green Cards

We believe that children like and enjoy praise of different kinds. We try to notice children doing the right thing, making good choices and generally being happy and doing well in school. This includes our most vulnerable children, our youngest (3 year olds), Nursery and Reception children who will often receive a sticker for doing the right thing. Other praise rewards might include certificates, showing their work to Ms Allen or Miss Weekly.

In the rest of the school we also use a card system to reward behaviour. We are going to start this in Reception. Children can earn a dark green card for demonstrating outstanding behaviour during the day and a light green card for outstanding learning during class times. When a child earns 5 reward cards, they receive a certificate in assembly. (They also receive certificates when they receive 15, 30 and 50 green cards.)

All staff and children are placed into one of our four houses – Dragon (Red), Griffin (Green), Lion (Yellow) or Unicorn (Blue). Throughout the year various house competitions are organised, which look to engage our children and staff. It is important that we develop a sense of belonging and our House system is an excellent way of achieving this.

### **Children in EYFS can earn points by:**

Receiving green cards for behaviour or attitude to learning

Achievements or WOW moments on Tapestry

Home learning

Sharing a book at home

Receiving a team spirit badge

100% attendance each week



It has been great to see the children bringing their book bags to school every day and that schoolbooks are being treated carefully, please continue to do this. Thank you.

Remember to post what you get up to over the weekend onto Tapestry.

Many Thanks

The Reception Team.