

# The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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## Mulberry and Holly Class Newsletter



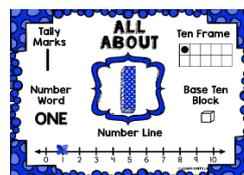
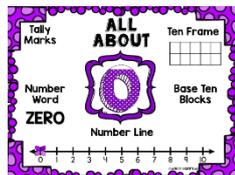
Dear Parents/Carers

The children have settled well into full-time school and have been having lots of fun exploring the indoor and outdoor environment.

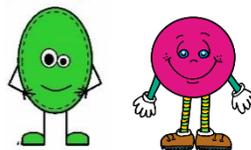
### This week we have....

#### Maths

Focussed on learning about the number zero and the number one, looking at different ways of representing these numbers.



We have also learnt about the shapes circle and oval. What circular and oval objects can you find at home and out and about?



#### Letters and Sounds

We have been focussing on our listening skills this week so that we are ready to start learning the sounds that each letter makes next week.

The aim of this phase is to foster children's speaking and listening skills as preparation for learning to read with phonics. You, as parents, can play a vital role in helping your child develop these skills by encouraging your children to listen carefully and talk extensively about what they hear, see and do.



#### Things to do at home.

**Talk** about sounds you like and sounds you don't like and why. Draw some pictures of things that you like, for example, birds, singing, laughing or the sea.

**Play** a listening game by hiding a small toy and using vocal clues to guide your partner to find the toy. When they get nearer to the hidden toy, make your voice louder, when they get further away make your voice quieter.

**Make** your own noisy shaker. You could make a shaker by putting some small items into a plastic pot and covering the top with paper or silver foil. Try using some different items for the inside of your shaker. You could try rice, buttons, marbles or dried pasta. Which sound do you like the best?

**Ask** your child to use their voice to make their own sound effects. Record your child doing this and ask other family members to guess the sound effect.

### **Autumn**

You may have noticed that the weather is changing and Autumn is fast approaching. We have been talking about the changes we may notice and the different signs of Autumn within the school grounds. We are sending home a brown paper bag for you to take on an Autumn Walk with your child.

Read the instructions on the bag and see if you can find the items listed. You could walk to your local shops or the park and see if you can spot any signs on your way. If you find any items, put one of each in your bag and bring it back to school next week. We will then talk about what we have found and explore the different signs of Autumn using our senses. Have a great weekend.



### **Tapestry- Online Learning Journal**

Every child now has their own Tapestry account where we will upload photos, videos and observations of them. Over this weekend we will add on your e-mail addresses that you gave us at the home visits and you should then receive an e-mail to enable you to access your child's learning journey. Your e-mail might go to your junk or trash folder so please check them if you can't find it. Please follow the instructions on the e-mail ensuring you set up a password and PIN.



The app is free to download onto mobile phones and tablets, just search for 'Tapestry Journal'. It is an expectation that all parents use Tapestry to view their child's achievements as well as make comments and add their own photos from home learning. If you have any problems with Tapestry please see your child's class teacher at the end of the day.

**Could we also remind you that children are NOT to play with or on the equipment before and after school.**

Kind Regards

The Reception Team