

The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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Early Years Newsletter

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A big hello to our new parents and welcome back to you all. We hope you all had a lovely, restful half term. It has been wonderful hearing from the children about what they have done. Please continue to post onto Tapestry what you do at home as this is nice for the children to share with their class and helps us to plan some activities around children's home life that they can relate to.

You are likely to have some worries and concerns around the recent news of another national lockdown. No doubt the next month will be difficult, but we will keep you informed of any changes and we will add any updates to our weekly newsletters. You have probably noticed that some staff are now wearing face masks at the door when children enter the classrooms and when they leave at the end of the day. We are also asking everyone who enters the school site and the Early Years playground to wear a face covering. This is to ensure all staff feel safer at work. We all need to play our part and do what we can to stop the spread of COVID. Thank you for working with us.

Acorn Class have started to focus on a number each week. This week, it was number one. Please see the observations on Tapestry to see what we have been up to. Why not follow up the activities at home and see if your child can remember what we have done?

We are also focusing on a letter sound each week. Although we are looking at what the letter looks like, the main focus is the sound the letter makes. We are using 'Jolly Phonic' songs (which can be found on the internet) as an extra tool to remember and say the letter sounds in a fun way. If you have a look at these with your child, why not post a video of them singing their favourite song.

Next week, we are going to be thinking about Remembrance Day and make our own poppies to display in our window as well as some to take home.



Tapestry home learning task: All about number one!

Can your child find the **numeral one** from a piece of a game, on a front door or on a remote control? Get them to take a photo of it. Ask them to find **one** item and bring it to you, such as one sock, one fork or one book. It works better if there are quite a few of the same item so your child has to focus on how many they need to bring to you. Take a photo of what they collected and upload to Tapestry. Did your child struggle? Were they able to do it all by themselves? Please let us know.





Holly and Mulberry Classes have been learning the **phonics** sounds **h, b, f/ff, l/l**. We have also been revising all phase 2 tricky words – **l, to, the, no, go, into**. We have been learning some phonics rules – for example when some letters appear at the end of words they often need a friend (if it's at the end it needs a friend!), for example, huff, puff, hill, bell, bill, sniff. We have also been writing short captions and sentences in our phonics lessons and are learning about finger spaces and full stops.

In **maths**, the children have been using the language relating to size: **big, bigger, biggest, small, smaller, smallest, tall, taller, tallest, short, shorter, shortest, long, longer, longest**.



Tapestry home learning task: Take a picture of something that is shorter and taller than your child. Ask your child to explain whether they think the object is short, tall, big, small or long.



Fairy Tales

We will be looking at traditional fairy tales over the next few weeks. This week we have focused on Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have linked our maths to this story and have spoken a lot about size. We have turned our role play areas into a magical fairy tale area and we will continue to add resources as we learn about more fairy tales. We have also retold the story and used our knowledge of our tricky words to complete a sorry letter from Goldilocks to the Bears for going into their house.

Jewellery

Children should not be wearing any jewellery to school as stated in the school policy as this is a safety issue. Please make sure bracelets, necklaces and dangly earrings are removed for school. Thank you for working with us.

Clothing in Nursery

We have noticed that quite a few children are struggling with being able to pull their trousers up and down by themselves as they are wearing skinny jeans or tight clothing which makes being independent learners very hard. Please consider what your child is wearing for Nursery to allow them to move without restriction and to be independent. This is also the case for footwear. Please make sure children are wearing shoes that do not restrict them when they are climbing outside on equipment and are preferably with no laces so children can take their shoes on and off if they need to. This is especially important every Thursday when we have hall time and move in lots of different ways.

Kind Regards

The Early Years Team