



Head Teacher's Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm delighted to share with you our new newsletter format with a summary of this half term, along with some helpful information and key dates for your calendars. Moving forward, we will produce newsletters at the end of each half term.

The new year celebrations and snow seem like a distant memory already but it's been a relatively short half term at just six weeks. During that time, we've seen lots of exciting learning, the launch of Medical Tracker across the school, the launch of a new Premier Education after school football club and an increase in the number of places offered at our wraparound childcare provision, Rainbow Club.

As part of our involvement with the Department for Education's PINS project (Partnership for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools), we have had lots of staff training going on and it's been lovely to see some of you at our PINS coffee mornings.

Mrs Chris Hill, Teaching Assistant in Kingfisher, is leaving us at the end of this half-term. Chris has been a valued member of the Downs Infant School team for the last 31 years and she will be missed by us all. Chris will be replaced by Ms Jackie Clarke on Thursday mornings and Mrs Helen Irvine on Friday mornings, both of whom already work with Kingfisher. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Chris every happiness in her new chapter as she is soon to become a grandmother.

We are enormously grateful to our ever-growing team of volunteers who give so generously of their time in fundraising through FODIS, running the daily road closure on Florence Place, supporting our early readers through the Reading Army, helping in the lunch hall, giving time to run events such as the recent '#Time to Talk' coffee morning, helping to maintain the school grounds and supporting the work of the Our City Our World (OCOW) team, as well as making monthly monetary donations and



This half term's value has been : Creativity

Next half term's value will be: Diversity

Head Teacher's Welcome (continued)

offering advice on matters such as issues with our sound system; the list goes on.
THANK YOU!

Enjoy the half-term break and I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes,
Lisa Walker

Learning in Reception

Reception have been enjoying 'Workout Wednesdays' where they develop their physical skills, communication and language skills and all with ample opportunity to expand their personal, social and emotional development. There have been some very strange goings on with bears and naughty buses, all inspiring wonderful talk and writing!

For more detail and photos, please check your tapestry account



Learning in Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about Africa. They had a visit from a parent who is a print designer and were inspired to have a go at their own printing. They have imagined and written about their own animals after learning a non fiction text about 'zebaffes'!

For more detail and photos, please check your tapestry account



Learning in Year 2

Year 2 have been learning all about dragons! A trip to the Pavillion certainly inspired some wonderful learning across the curriculum. They have designed, created and painted clay into the most incredible and individual dragon eyes.

For more detail and photos, please check your tapestry account



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School Council

Incredibly, Downs Infant School has been allocated £10,000 of funding through the Department of Education's National Education Nature Parks programme. Working in collaboration with the Royal Horticultural Society, the aim of the programme is to increase biodiversity in schools across the country. Our School Council (made up of children) have been liaising with their classes to suggest ways in which we could improve our school grounds for nature and education, and today they met with 'Pete the Pond' to look at possibilities for over-hauling our pond area. We look forward to receiving Pete's proposal next term!



Our City, Our World

This term's focus is: FOOD

Rainbow fruit and growing food from scraps have been our challenges this half term and we have had some wonderful engagement from families in their homes. These challenges have helped us to explore healthy foods and how to waste less.



This half term's Makaton signs were:

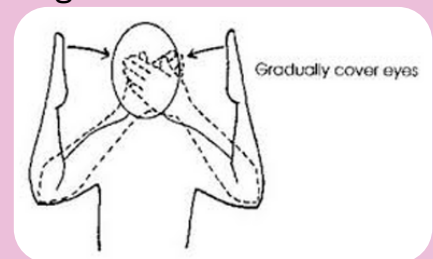
Happy New Year



Food



Night



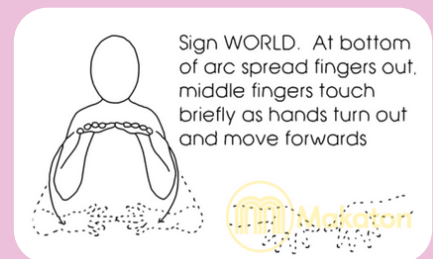
Toy



Story



Internet



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FODIS News



Given that the future of our Friends of Downs Infants (FODIS) has been in question due to the workload falling to a small core team, it was incredibly heartening to see the impressive turn out for the recent AGM. We look forward to meeting again in the Open House pub at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th March as an opportunity for individuals to get involved in whichever way suits them, and all on the premise that many hands make light work. Upcoming events include Friday 7th March Wonka Frozen Friday and Sunday 23rd March Spring Fayre 1-4pm. Full details for both events will be shared nearer the time on the Reach More Parents app.

Resources Shout Out

- We are looking for empty and clean soap dispensers.
- We have a surplus of tables and very little storage so if you could do with a table, do speak to the office. We would love some to go to a good home.
- We are always looking for clean, large pieces of fabric for den building.
- Small figures and cars.

Safeguarding

If you would like to speak to a member of our safeguarding team in confidence, please email: DSL@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Key Dates

- Feb 24-28 Bookswap collection week
- Mon March 3rd Bookswap in Seahorse/Hall
- Fri March 7th dressup for Downs Infant School World Book Week
- Fri March 7th Wonka Frozen Friday
- Sat March 8th Children's Parade (Y2) - Mass Camp 'Big Make' @ Falmer
- Tues March 11th Parents' Evening
- Thurs March 13th Parents' Evening
- Tues March 18th Let's Dance @ Brighton Dome
- Fri March 21st Red Nose Day - wear something red!
- Sun March 23rd FODIS Spring Fayre 1-4pm
- Tues March 25th Squirrels & Badgers Friston Forest trip
- Weds March 26th Hedgehogs and Foxes Friston Forest trip
- Weds March 26th FODIS EGM 7.30pm Open House Pub (voting new chair)
- Mon March 31st Year 1 show (2 classes)
- Wed April 2nd Year 1 show (2 classes)
- Fri April 4th last day of term
- Fri 25th April Children's Parade (Y2) - Costume Workshop 3.30-4.30pm
- Sat 26th April Children's Parade (Y2) - Costume Workshop 10-11am
- Tues 29th April Class Photographs
- Sat 3rd May - Children's Parade
- Fri 23rd May INSET DAY
- Mon 26th-30th May half term
- Tues 22nd July last day of term

If you have any compliments, comments, concerns or complaints to feedback to school please email:

CCCC@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk