



This half term's value has been: Diversity Next half term's value will be: Empathy

Head Teacher's Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

The gorgeous spring weather has arrived perfectly timed for those celebrating Eid Al-Fitr at the beginning of the week and the spring break ahead!

We've had lots of exciting activities going on over the last six weeks, including our fun-filled Book Week. The magic of books shone in abundance throughout the school with the children sharing books together, creating their own books, swapping books, dressing up as book characters, and jazzing up their classroom book corners. It was also lovely to see so many parents, carers, and grandparents coming in to read to the children.



In time for Book Week, Miss Cargill and Miss Harrex revamped our library and replenished the stock with some enticing new non-fiction books that have been very well received by the children.





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Head Teacher's Welcome (continued)

Forty of our Year 2 children proudly performed on stage at The Dome, as part of the annual Let's Dance event, and several Year 2 girls attended a football event in Falmer, aimed at encouraging more girls to get into the sport.



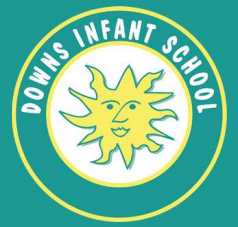
Last week, Merve (Mum of Kingsley in Squirrel) came in to talk to every class about Ramadan. The children enjoyed learning about the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, listening to a story, putting on Hijabs, and creating their own 'grateful hands'. Thank you to Merve for providing such engaging sessions.

You may have noticed our lovely new planters along the entrance to the school, which have been generously donated to us by 'Morph'. They are constructed out of what essentially look like large Lego blocks made from recycled plastic car parts (door liners, dashboards, etc.). The blocks can be used to create all sorts of products such as outdoor furniture and internal partition walls and as part of Science Week, the children have been encouraged to think of their own designs for products that could be made of them. To find out more, visit <https://www.morphbricks.com/>.



Wishing you all a lovely spring break and we look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 22nd April.

Best wishes,
Lisa Walker



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Learning in Reception

Earlier in the term, Reception were very lucky to have an artist exhibition called 'Look then Leap'. Thank you to FODIS for funding this wonderful event! The children were able to explore the artwork in the garden and beach area and they had so much fun letting their imaginations run wild!

For more detail and photos, please check your tapestry account



Learning in Year 1

A brilliant trip to Friston Forest allowed Year 1 to experience hapazome plant printing, den building, minibeast hunting, sticky card making and even learning how to make a spark to create fire! What a treat to be out exploring the wonderful Sussex landscape.

For more detail and photos, please check your tapestry account



Learning in Year 2

Year 2 had an exciting visit from the Rainbow Theatre Company earlier in the term (thank you FODIS)! They brought The Great Fire of London (1666) to life, and the children even got to showcase their acting skills by joining in with the performance—such a fantastic experience! The children were so inspired that they immediately started to create the city of London with the Kappla in COOL time and produced some inspiring artwork.

For more detail and photos, please check your tapestry account





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School Council

The School Council have continued to meet each week during this term and have been discussing important topics such as risk assessing the use of our new barrels on Treetops, and the design for a new mural that one of our parents is kindly going to paint for us in May (more details to follow in the next newsletter!). We look forward to welcoming class representatives from Reception to the School Council from after the Easter holiday.

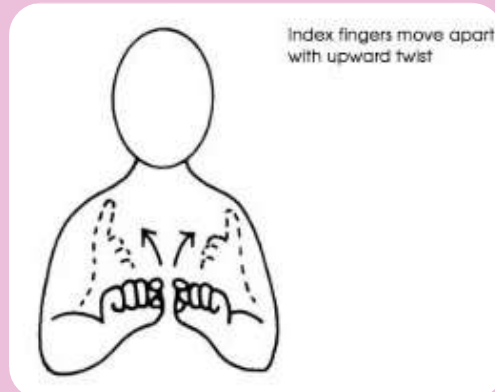


This half term's Makaton signs were:

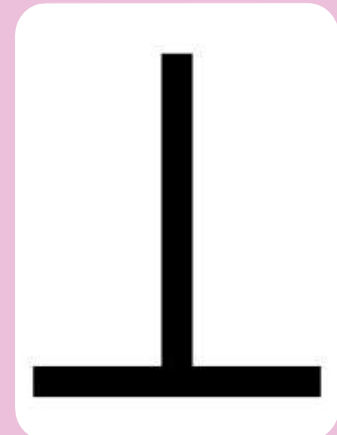
Same



Different



Real/True



Worm



Art



Science





Governors News

As another term draws to a close, Governors would once again like to thank Mrs. Walker and all her staff for the excellent work they are doing to give our children the best possible start on their educational journey. Outside the classroom, 40 of our children recently took part in "Let's Dance" at the Dome – well done to them.

Governors have been busy with our Bursar, Ann Mitchell, and due to her efforts have recently been able to submit a balanced budget for 2025/26 to the Local Authority.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the school so watch out for events in celebration of this.

Unrelated to this, work will soon be starting on the pond area as a result of funding towards developing the school grounds, and we look forward to the finished product.

There will be upcoming fundraising activities in aid of school resources and, in case you didn't know, I will mention that FODIS is a registered charity and eligible for "Give as you Earn" charitable donations. Please think of us when choosing who to donate to.

Governors hope you all have an enjoyable Easter break.

Resources Shout Out

- Unwanted wellies for our new sandpit - please send them to school in a clearly marked bag when we return after Easter.
- Packaging for junk modelling - please note, we unable to accept packaging from products containing nuts or seeds. Also please do not send in packaging from medicines or the cardboard inner of toilet rolls.

Thank you!



FODIS News



A message from the outgoing chair, Tessa Cobby:

The time has come for me to pass the baton over to a brand new Chairperson. I have really enjoyed my time heading up FODIS working with you and the school to raise funds that enhance the school environment and everyday learning.

HUGE thanks to those who have supported me and to the Class Rep gang for all of their help.

I am handing over to Tracy Murray-Bate who is the Fox Class Rep and was voted in at our AGM extension last week. I wish her all the best, she is going to be brilliant!

Camille remains as the chairty's Treasurer, as do the other superstars that make things happen.

I will now step into the background and be part of the wider team.

Look out for lots of exciting events coming your way along with an update on all the amazing money raised so far this year!

NB FODIS event dates are on in the Key Dates section on the final page of this newsletter

***Don't Forget -
Frozen Fridays -
first Friday of each month***



On behalf of the entire school community, Mrs Walker would like to extend an enormous thank you for Tessa's tireless efforts in fundraising to make that extra difference for the children.

Downs Infant School Newsletter



Spring Term 2 2025

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Key Dates

Tues 22nd April	First day of Summer Term
Tues 22nd April	NSPCC "Speak Out. Stay Safe" pupil assemblies and workshops
23rd-25th April	Wheelchair Sports Experience
Fri 25th April	Deadline to make payment and return lunch and photo permission slips for Year 2 Trulleigh Hill trip
Fri 25th April	Deadline to make payment and return lunch slips for Reception Preston Park trip
Fri 25th April	Year 2 Children's Parade - Costume Workshop 3.30-4.30pm
Sat 26th April	Year 2 Children's Parade - Costume Workshop 10-11am
Sun 27th April	FODisco at The Rose Hill Tavern (kids and adults)
Tues 29th April	Class Photographs
Fri 2nd May	FODIS Frozen Friday
Fri 2nd May	Relationship & Health Education (RHE) Parent Workshop - 2pm in Seahorse classroom led by Miss Cornish
Sat 3rd May	Children's Parade
Weds 7th May	Year 2 Trip: Trulleigh Hill - Robin & Kingfisher Classes
Thurs 8th May	Year 2 Trip: Trulleigh Hill - Puffin & Owl Classes
Fri 9th May	FODIS 90s Quiz Night 8-11pm
12th-13th May	Ninja Skipping Experience
Fri 16th May	Reception Trip: Preston Park
Fri 23rd May	SCHOOL CLOSED - Inset Day
26th-30th May	SCHOOL CLOSED - Half Term Holiday
Fri 6th June	FODIS Frozen Friday
Fri 4th July	FODIS Frozen Friday
Sat 5th July	Summer Fayre
Friday 11 th July	Book Fair (in collaboration with The Book Nook)
Fri 18th July	Pupil reports to be sent home
Tues 22nd July	Last day of Summer Term

Safeguarding

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

If you have any compliments, comments, concerns or complaints to feedback to school please email:
CCCC@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk