

## Foundation Stage Newsletter: Autumn Term 1

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you to Foundation Stage and we hope you enjoy it just as much as your child will. Our main focus for the first half term is to support children's emotional wellbeing by ensuring that your child settles into school and forms friendships to develop secure foundations and give them the best start to their time at Downsway Primary School.

### **Our topic is Marvellous Me!**

We will start this term with the topic '**Marvellous Me**' which allows us to get to know each other. Our topic will change every half term and you will receive a topic map and newsletter to explain what your child will be learning at school. Our learning follows each child's individual needs and interests through planned play experiences linking to our topic, which makes learning active and meaningful. We also include seasonal and cultural learning themes that will help your child learn more about our world. During this topic we will be learning about our senses, our differences and similarities and how we have changed since we were babies. Further information can be found on the topic map.

**Please can your child bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September. We will be using these to focus on how we have changed from when we were born to starting school.**

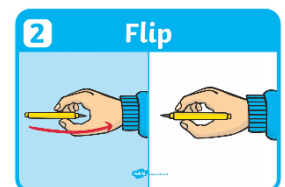
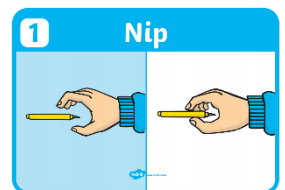
### **Dough Disco**

Once we have all settled into school we will start daily Dough Disco sessions. Dough Disco is a fun activity which combines the use of Play-Doh with a series of hand and finger exercises designed to improve fine motor control in preparation for drawing and writing. The movements develop children's fine and gross motor dexterity, hand-eye coordination and self-esteem. The school will provide your child with their own pot of playdoh to take part in these sessions.



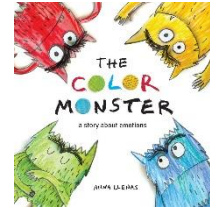
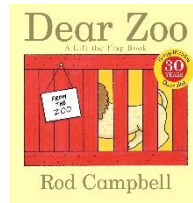
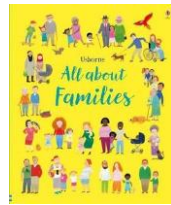
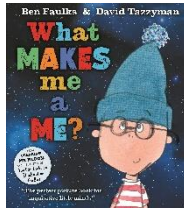
### **Literacy and Drawing Club**

We will start the term focusing on developing our fine motor skills through lots of fun activities. The children will then build upon these skills and develop our pencil grip and begin to make marks using lines and shapes. We will begin to teach children to hold a mark making tool with a quadruped grasp/tripod grip using the following rhyme: nip, flip and grip (see images). See below for the typical development of pencil grip in children.



We will initially focus on forming shapes and patterns using different mark making tools before moving onto letter formation and focus on writing our names. In Foundation Stage we teach children print handwriting (see attached sheet).

We will be using fiction and non-fiction texts to support children's understanding of what makes us special, our families and feelings/emotions:



Later in the term we will start 'Drawing Club' in our literacy sessions. Drawing Club immerses children in the world of story and shows them the joy of drawing and writing. It enables adults to share a treasure trove of vocabulary with children. It also gives children age-appropriate drawing and mark making/writing practice that is highly engaging and grounds children in the joy of book snuggling. We will focus on a new story or animation every week and introduce new vocabulary with exciting actions to help the children remember the words. The children will then be set challenges to draw pictures to go with the story and add passcodes linking to phonics and maths concepts to make their drawings come to life.



### Phonics

At Downsway Primary School we follow a scheme called A Flying Start with Letters and Sounds. A Flying Start with Letters and Sounds is a multi-sensory, systematic, synthetic phonics programme. It has been developed by early years and school improvement advisers, headteachers and teachers in West Berkshire. A Flying Start with Letters and Sounds enables children to:

- Develop good language skills and a wide vocabulary
- Foster a love of reading
- Acquire the skills to read independently as indicated by the phonic check
- Secure the physical skills to write in order to successfully record the graphemes they have learnt

The children will take part in daily phonics sessions to develop their reading (blending) and segmenting (writing) skills. We will also use fun interactive phonics games during the school day to help the children practise their phonics skills and build on their understanding. Here are the links in case you would like to access some of the free games at home.

- Phonics Play Games: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>
- Phonics Bloom Games: <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

### **Mathematical Development**

Children will build on previous experiences of number from their home and nursery environments, and further develop their subitising (when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting) and counting skills. We will practise oral counting and explore the sequence of events, such as the school day. The children will explore the composition of numbers within 5 and use numberblocks to develop their understanding further. They will begin to compare sets of objects and use the language of comparison. We will also develop their understanding of positional language and use it in their play.

### **Reception Baseline Assessment**

The reception baseline assessment, or RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken by Mrs Clarke and will measure your child's progress from Foundation to Year 6. The data will only be accessed by the Department for Education. Mrs Clarke will spend quality 1-1 time with your child, getting to know them and if they need any further support in certain areas. If you wish to read further about the Reception Baseline, then you can find a useful parent booklet here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

### **Seesaw: Wow Moments**

We look forward to strengthening the link between home and school. We greatly value your input and would like to give you the opportunity to share your child's achievements (Wow Moments) through the online communication platform, SeeSaw. We will then share these 'Wow Moments' in class and celebrate achievements outside of school. Log in's for SeeSaw will be sent out to you within the next week.

### **Things to remember**

- Miss Gale will be teaching the class through exciting themed days every other Wednesday.
- Please make sure all items of school uniform and PE kit are named as items of clothing can easily be mixed up.
- **Please bring in a named pair of wellington boots for your child to use in the mud kitchen and in wet weather.**
- Please bring your child's book bag into school every day with their reading book/reading record (once these are given out later in the term).
- If you are providing a packed lunch for your child please remember that nuts and nut products are not allowed in school.
- Named water bottles should be brought into school every day filled with water.

We are really looking forward to a fun and exciting first term in Foundation Stage. Finally, if you have any questions or wish to talk to us about any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the beginning or end of the school day.

Many thanks for your support,  
Mrs Clarke, Miss Green, Mrs Saunders, Miss Allen, Miss Fairbairn, Mrs Giles and Miss Gale

## Foundation Stage Timetable: Autumn Term 1

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
8.45 – 9.10	<b>Busy Bee Activities and Self-Registration</b>				
9.10-9.20	<b>Dough Disco</b>				
9:20 – 9:30	<b>Drawing Club</b>	<b>Drawing Club</b>	<b>Drawing Club</b>	<b>Drawing Club</b>	<b>Drawing Club</b>
9.30 – 10:20	Drawing Club and Exploring Time Literacy Provision	Drawing Club and Exploring Time Literacy Provision	Drawing Club and Exploring Time Literacy Provision	Drawing Club and Exploring Time Literacy Provision	Drawing Club and Exploring Time Literacy Provision
10.20 - 10.30	<b>Snack Time on the Carpet</b>				
10.30 – 10.40	<b>Maths Session</b>	<b>Maths Session</b>	<b>Maths Session</b>	<b>Maths Session</b>	<b>Maths Session</b>
10.40 – 11.15	Small Group Maths Activities and Exploring Time Maths Provision	Small Group Maths Activities and Exploring Time Maths Provision	Small Group Maths Activities and Exploring Time Maths Provision	Small Group Maths Activities and Exploring Time Maths Provision	Small Group Maths Activities and Exploring Time Maths Provision
11.15 – 11.45	<b>Phonics Session</b>				
11.45 – 11.50	<b>Get Ready for Lunch</b>				
11.50 - 1.00	<b>Lunch Time</b>				
1.00 – 1.10	<b>Register and Mindfulness</b>				
1.10 – 1.20	<b>Number of the Week</b>	<b>Art/DT Focus</b>	<b>Key Stage 1 Assembly</b>	<b>Poetry Basket &amp; Exploring Time</b>	<b>PSED Carpet Time</b>
1.20 – 2.20	<b>Exploring Time</b>	<b>Exploring Time</b> Art/DT Activity Focus	<b>Exploring Time</b>	<b>P.E. Session</b>	<b>Exploring Time</b>
2.20 – 2.45	<b>History/Geography/RE Focus:</b>	<b>Topic Time/Science Focus:</b>	<b>Music Session</b>		<b>Cosmic Yoga/Poetry Basket Recap</b>
2.45 – 3.00	<b>Voting Station Story and Home Time Routine</b>				

Lower case letter formation examples



Capital letter formation examples



# Number Formation Rhymes 1-10



Around to my left to find my hero, back to the top, I've made a zero.



A downward stroke, my that's fun. Now I've made the number one.



Half a heart says "I love you." Add a line. Now I've made the number two.



Around the tree, around the tree, now I've made the number three.



Down and across and down once more, now I've made the number four.



Draw the hat, the back and the belly. It's a five. Watch out, it might come alive!



Draw the hat, the back and the belly. It's a five. Watch out, it might come alive!



Bend down low to pick up sticks. Now I've made the number six.



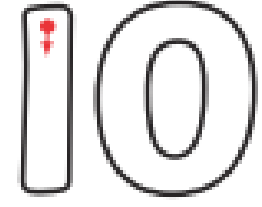
Across the sky and down from heaven. Now I've made the number seven.



Make an "S" and close the gate. Now you've made the number eight.



Make an oval and a line. Now I've made the number nine.



A downward stroke, that's my number one. Add a zero, that's my number ten done!