



# DOWNSWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*Challenging Minds, Changing Futures.*

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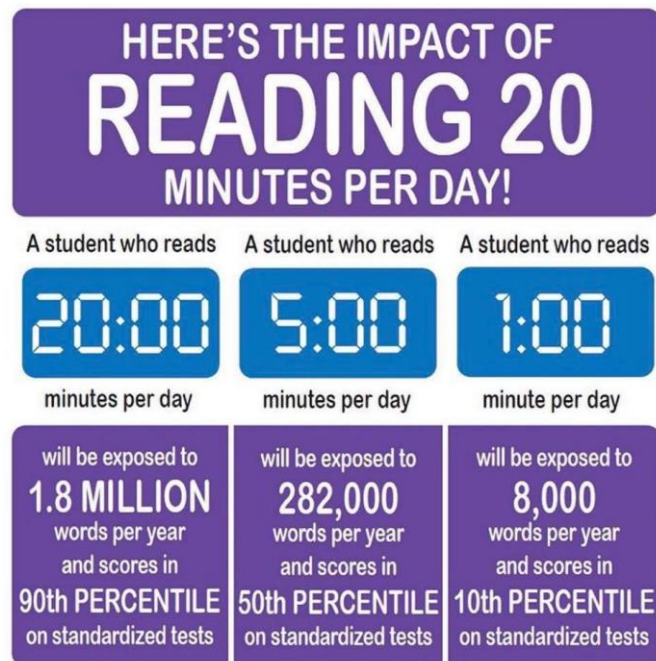
24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope 2020 has started well for all our Downsway families and any New Year resolutions made are going positively. Further to my November 2019 newsletter where I shared with you that we are not rewarding children with house points for reading at home and we are not keeping children in at break/lunchtimes if they have not read at home. It is an expectation that all children should be reading regularly at home, as reading is a vital skill for life.

I also shared that every adult involved in a child's life should be advocating the importance of reading at home, and that all children need to understand that the reason they read at home, isn't to avoid staying in a break/lunch or to gain a house point, as this does not lead to children becoming lifelong readers nor does it help them to develop the skills they need in the future, I thought I would share again the image below.

Wouldn't it be great if every Downsway pupil's New Year resolution is to read for at least 5-10 minutes at home each day and the potential impact it could have on their learning and progress.



## Thank You

A very big thank you to you all for the very kind Christmas presents, cards and good wishes you gave us on the last day of term. We really are very appreciative - THANK YOU!

## **January 2020 News in Brief** *(more on our website under latest news)*

All year groups - Watched a theatrical performance from M&M Productions of Robin Hood.

Year 5 - Fire safety talk by Tilehurst Fire Station.

Year 6 - Four children from Year 6 took part in the Young Mathematician's Award at Explore Learning in Calcot.

Year 5 – Badminton sessions at Cotswold Sports centre

Year 1 – Tag Rugby sessions with specialist tag rugby coaches

Year 6 - 1940s and the Home Front themed day.

Year 2 - First time we have had a Year 2 pupil gain the Downsway Times Tables award - What a great achievement, Mufaddal!

Year 5 – Tag Rugby sessions with specialist tag rugby coaches

## **Welcome Time**

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended welcome time. We hope you found it useful. Please remember we have an 'open door policy' so if you have a question, query or suggestion, then please do let your child's class teacher know or the school office.

## **Curriculum Overviews**

You will find the curriculum overview for this term on your child's class year group page on our website, along with shared learning opportunities.

## **School Closure**

Should we need to close the school in any event, including snow, lack of heating or any other critical incident, we will communicate this to you through the channels stated below. We always try our very best to remain open and always assume we are open, as we will only use the communication channels below if we are closed.

- Local Radio stations including Heart and BBC Radio Berkshire
- The school website - latest news section
- The West Berkshire Council website
- Email

## **Our Core Values**

We have revisited our core values at Downsway as felt that the original 12 values we had were too many. The staff have worked collaboratively to establish our new 6 core values and definitions to make them more meaningful for everyone. Our core values underpin our ethos of Downsway Primary School. Our new core values are;

### **Aspiration**

*Dreaming big, aiming high, working hard to achieve goals*

### **Tolerance**

*Respecting, accepting & embracing others*

### **Self-Belief**

*Believing in & valuing yourself*

### **Responsibility**

*Learning to make good choices & understanding the importance of honesty*

### **Curiosity**

*Showing enthusiasm, asking questions, imagining & exploring*

### **Co-operation**

*Listening, supporting & sharing*

## E Safety Leaflets

Just a reminder, that on our website we have information leaflets for parents/carers about many apps which are not suitable for primary aged children, such as Fortnite (12+), Instagram (13+), Minecraft (10+), Snap Chat (13+), Tik Tok (13+), WhatsApp (16+), YouTube (13+), etc. If you feel your knowledge needs improving so that you are aware of the potential dangers, please do have a look. They can be found on our school website by clicking on Parents/Carers tab, followed by E Safety. Finally, these apps have age restrictions to safeguard children.

## Parents/Carers/Family Members 'Shout Outs!'

We would like to say a BIG thank you for all our parents, carers and family members who have supported in school, with a trip or an event this month. We really appreciate it as without your support, these events would not be able to take place.

- Mrs Dixon (Y2 & Y5) for listening to children read
- Mrs Dixon (FS & Y2) for listening to children read
- Mrs McGoldrick for listening to children read
- Mrs Cotterell, Ms Janes, Mrs Cotterell (*Bobby's grandma*), Mr Clarke (*Sophia's grandad*), Mrs Panting & Mrs Tanner for helping with the Year 6 themed day linked to the 1940s.
- Mrs Dyer & Mrs Bowden (*Cohen's grandma*) for coming in to speak to Foundation children about their jobs.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. Ayres  
Headteacher



## Important Dates for 2019/2020

<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 - Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<i>Half Term</i>	<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019</b>
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 ( <i>Pupils finish at 1.30 pm</i> )
<i>Christmas Holiday</i>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020</b>

<b>Spring Term 3</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 - Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<i>Half Term</i>	<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020</b>
<b>Spring Term 4</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019 ( <i>Pupils finish at 1.30 pm</i> )
<i>Spring Holiday</i>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b>

<b>Summer Term 5</b>	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2020 - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2020
<i>Half Term</i>	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>

<b>Summer Term 6</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2020 - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 ( <i>Pupils finish at 1.30 pm</i> )
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**Please note that INSET days will be held during the school holidays.**

## Welcome time

- Summer Term 2020 – week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

## Productions

- Year 3/Year 4 – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm & Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6pm

- Year 6 – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 6pm

### **Statutory Testing**

- Year 1 phonics screening – Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Year 2 SATs – May 2020
- Year 4 multiplication tables check - 3 week period from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Year 6 SATs – Week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### **Residential Trips**

- Year 4 residential (Ufton Court) – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### **Whole School Events**

- School Choir performing at O2, Young Voices – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Creativity week - week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020
- World Book Day – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Sports Relief - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Sunshine & Showers workshop for parents/carers – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020
- Science week – week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Sunshine & Showers workshop for parents/carers – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Health & Fitness Week – week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020
- Race for Life Colour Run – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – family members invited to take part
- Field events part for Sports Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for children only. No spectators!
- Sports 'Day' – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 1.15 pm for family members to watch
- Whole school and class photos – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Transition morning (*children will spend time with their September 2020 staff*) – July 2020
- Talent Show – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **Year Group Specific Events**

#### **Foundation Stage (FS):**

- Foundation Stage, Years 1, 2 & 3 drama workshops – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Foundation Stage - 10 Didi rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Summer term, starting 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

#### **Year 1:**

- Year 1 - 10 tag rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Spring term, starting 15<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. *Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor PE clothing and footwear as the sessions will be take place in all weather.*
- Foundation Stage, Years 1, 2 & 3 drama workshops – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

#### **Year 2:**

- Year 2 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 25<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Foundation Stage, Years 1, 2 & 3 drama workshops – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

#### **Year 3:**

- Year 3 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 26<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020
- Year 3 trip to Waterside Centre – end of March/beginning of April 2019
- Year 3 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

#### **Year 4:**

- Music project (Ukulele) through Berkshire Maestros commencing 21<sup>st</sup> April until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- Year 4 swimming at Oratory School – starting 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Year 4 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 4<sup>th</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

- Year 4 trip to Baylab – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Year 4 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Summer term, starting 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Year 5:**

- Year 5 - 10 tag rugby coaching sessions with specialist coach during the Spring term, starting 15<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. *Please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor PE clothing and footwear as the sessions will be take place in all weather.*
- Year 5 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 3<sup>rd</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020
- Year 5 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Summer term, starting 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- Year 5 trip to Wokingham Waterside Centre – Summer 2<sup>nd</sup> half term (June/July 2020)

**Year 6:**

- Year 6 cricket coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 25<sup>th</sup> February to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Year 6 SATs information session – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 3.20 pm in Mr Grover’s classroom.
- Year 6 tennis coaching sessions with specialist coach during Spring term, starting 4<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020
- Year 6 trip to Baylab – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020
- Year 6 Bikeability training – Summer Term 2020
- Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 9.30 am for Year 6 family members

**Dates not on my December newsletter:**

- Foundation Stage – Nature garden, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Foundation Stage – Trip to Little Street Role Play, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Year 1 – Trip to Winchester Science museum, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020
- Year 2 – PE session at Brookfields; 15 children on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 15 children on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Foundation Stage – ‘Our Community Day’, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Year 5 – Trip to Reading Museum, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Year 6 – Johnny Ball Mathematical event, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Year 4 – Trip to the climbing centre, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Whole School – ‘Bringing books to life dance’ workshops, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Year 1 – Grandparents afternoon, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020