

# Downs Infant School Newsletter

Weeks 15, 16 & 17 ending 22 January 2021



How can we only be 3 weeks into term?! So much has had to change for ALL of us. Our value this half term is 'Creativity' and we have all had to do things differently. This has been hard. Home grown-ups have had to rearrange their work so that they can keep the children at home safe and help them learn. School grown-ups have had to learn how to make videos, and how to support children from a distance with their learning. Children in school have had to get used to new grown-ups teaching them and to new children to do their learning with. Children at home have had to find new places to do their learning, and to share their grown-ups and their resources with siblings OR to manage being on their own.

During lockdown I will be hosting the 'Chair of Champions' assembly every Friday on Tapestry. Everyone who has managed to do the challenge set at the Tuesday values assembly will be able to sit on their own 'Chair of Champions', and the teachers in school will choose a child in school to sit on the class chair. For all your CREATIVE efforts this half term, you ALL deserve to sit on it! Be safe and call school if we can help in anyway!

With love,  
Dr Mitchell

## Dates for your diary:

*(New dates will be in red)*

- **2 February – Special Guest assembly on Tapestry! Venessa Taylor, author of 'Baller Boys'**
- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb-Friday 19 Feb, Half Term**
- **Thursday 1 April, final day of Spring Term**
- **Friday 2 April-Friday 16 April incl. Easter Holiday**
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May, school closed for elections**
- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May, class photos**
- **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May INSET – school closed to children**
- **Monday 31 May-Friday 4 June, Half Term**
- **Friday 23 July, last day of term**

## Don't forget during lockdown:

Every day 12 noon book club with Miss Cargill!

Every Thursday 6.30pm bedtime stories with your favourite teachers!



### Reception

Reception learned the 'oi' sound this week – we hope they were not too rude shouting 'oi' at the home grown-ups!

They have also made up their own 'Naughty Bus' stories which were hilarious. We hope the Brighton buses aren't that naughty!

### Year 1

Year 1 have been doing 'dough disco' at school and home, and have learned what a syllable is which is helping them with their reading and writing.

Learning about Africa has given lots of families the chance to share their own knowledge about different African countries including some children teaching others to count in Luganda.

### Year 2

Year 2 have made their own willow pattern plates, and have immersed themselves in dragon stories.

In maths they have been learning their 5 and 10 times tables.

They have been doing some super handwriting!

# The Chair of Champions!



This week's assembly was on being creative and doing NEW THINGS. **The challenge was to do a new thing every day – did YOU manage to do something new?**

Some teachers were spotted doing new things and being creative this week.... They must all sit on the CHAIR OF CHAMPIONS!

Ms Clarson used her kitchen cupboards as teaching whiteboards!

Mrs Gates made an instrument out of a spoon and a mug!

Miss Cargill worked out how to use Bug Club and helped everyone else with it!

Mrs Courtsley and Mr Jones showed how to make your own maths resources to learn at home!

A word wizard was spotted working from home, complete with hat and wand! (Does Mrs Bryant know who that was?)

Miss Downey taught year 1 how to make play dough if they haven't got any!

Miss Hoten gave some great advice to home grown-ups about how to manage things!

Mr Cave found a great feelings resource outside school and shared it!

Mrs Brett had a special guest in her handwriting lesson!

Mrs Holt shared the chin trick!

Mrs C read a dragon story with a TWIST!

Mrs Oswald showed how to JUMP your syllables and be active!

Miss Harrex, Miss Cornish and Miss Jones made some phonics videos and Mr Hughes had the very creative idea to borrow them!

Also – **how many things can you think of to do with a spoon...?!**