



We made it and what a half term!

As a school we are making a choice not to follow some of the narrative that is in the press about 'lost learning'. Instead, we choose to find the positives that have occurred during this period of lockdown, we will celebrate all the good things and learning that have happened, and then we will continue to teach the children the things that they need to learn.

We have seen so many examples of creativity and adaptability and our children have shown themselves to be both resilient and adaptable. Some of the learning and experiences that we have heard about are truly wonderful. Equally, some experiences have been more challenging and we hope that we are supporting you wherever we possibly can.

As champions of literature, we will be sourcing some new books that will help our children back to school, whenever that may be (we don't know any more than you!). We will be placing great emphasis on reading and will continue to ask for your support with Bug Club which we have now purchased.

For now, we encourage you to rest, play and try to make the half term a little different to term time. Share ideas with each other about how to do this!

With love,
Dr Mitchell

Dates for your diary:

(New dates will be in red)

- Monday 15th Feb-Friday 19 Feb, Half Term
- **Week beginning 1st March 'Inspiring Illustrators' week.**
- Thursday 1 April, final day of Spring Term
- Friday 2 April-Friday 16 April incl. Easter Holiday
- Thursday 6th May, school closed for elections
- Thursday 27th May, class photos
- Friday 28th May INSET – school closed to children
- Monday 31 May-Friday 4 June, Half Term
- Friday 23 July, last day of term

Today EVERYONE in the Downs Infants Community is on the...

Chair of Champions!



All Year Groups Learning Round Up

This week we have been learning about the Lunar or Chinese New Year both in and out of school. We have seen puppet shows, colossal moving dragons, origami oxen, Terracotta army figures, food sampling, dancing and music and much, much more! We wish a very Happy New Year to any families who are marking this celebration.

Many of you have enjoyed our sprinkling of snow and have shown great creativity in how you've used it! This is a perfect example of learning through play and following children's interests. This was not a planned activity as we could never schedule the snow, but teachers would always adapt plans to allow children to enjoy the experience, write about it, touch it, experiment with it, build with it and so on. This is very valid learning and for some of our children it has been their first experience of snow that has settled and therefore even more important to play with it and explore it.



