



# The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools



*Chair of Governors: Dr A Eyden  
Vice Chair of Governors: Rev D Ridley*

*"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."  
(Matthew: 17 v20)*

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## Curriculum and home learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

Throughout the last academic year our children and staff have actively participated in a curriculum review. In working parties we have discussed every subject area and the expectations for the children at the end of each year as set out in the National Curriculum.

This has also involved extensive research and consultation with our staff and children the results of which have led us to redesign our provision for this academic year.

### The Headlines:

- The academic year is broken down into 6 terms by the DFE.
- This year we are focusing on three overarching themes to direct learning:  
Autumn 1 & 2 – It's a Wonderful World  
Spring 3 & 4 – Horrible Histories  
Summer 5 & 6 – Blank Canvas
- Children and teachers will decide upon sub themes that will provide the context for a block of learning.
- For example: within a 12 week theme, children may be immersed in up to 3 sub themes that draw out key learning pathways linked to the National Curriculum.
- School visits or visitors into school will be part of each overarching theme. (We will give as much notice as we can if trips require financing and will always endeavour to keep costs to a minimum)
- Parents and carers will be invited into school at some point during each theme to explore the children's learning with them.
- PSHE will be taught throughout the school using the Jigsaw programme as a starting point. Information about each year group's content will be provided by class teachers.



We have also looked at homework and how it has impacted on learning and standards. As a school we wish to give our children every opportunity to succeed and take ownership of their own learning journey.

The staff and children have discussed this at length and have looked at policies from other schools. The Senior Leadership team have considered current research alongside these stake holder views prior to making the improvements that we are implementing this academic year.

### **What will homework look like now?**

- We will be referring to this as home learning.
- Home learning information will be sent home at the beginning of a new overarching theme.
- The children will be presented with a selection of challenges that will enhance their sub theme learning in school.
- These challenges will be directly linked to the National Curriculum areas.
- Children should complete a minimum number of challenges as directed by their teacher.
- They can bring the completed challenge into school at any point in the theme when it will be celebrated in the classroom.

### **Home learning helps your child to:**

- Learn how to organise and manage their time
- Take more responsibility for their learning
- Extend and promote learning outside of the school day
- Learn to work independently and collaboratively
- Develop confidence to deal with frustrations, overcome difficulties and solve problems

### **With this in mind every child will be expected to:**

- Read daily – little and often; discussed, shared and purposeful, should be enjoyable
- Time home a library book each week
- Learn the high frequency words for their year group
- Learn their times tables. Teachers will inform you of which ones are appropriate for each age group
- Develop their personal organisation skills – remember PE kit/correct uniform/contact book

### **Additional learning:**

- 50 things to do by the time you are 11 ¾! This is a list of outside activities that all children can access with their families. This list will be made available on our website ready to for you to explore!
- Each year group will be directed to additional learning that the children can access to help develop key skills in maths and English.

We are very excited to begin this journey with our children and look forward to the year ahead!

Yours Sincerely



Miss T Leighton  
Head teacher

