



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

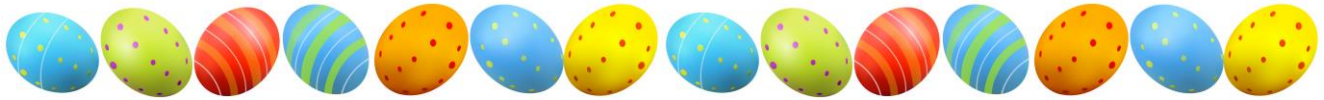
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Friday 8th April 2022

Easter Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Easter is a time of new beginnings a time of renewal and new life. As we start the Easter Break, I reflect back with immense pride on yet another incredible term. Despite being in my fifth year at DPS, I remain astounded by how much we achieve together as a result of the strong relationships that exist here amongst staff, parents and pupils. We can all be really proud of our school community for the way in which we have supported one another through the ongoing challenges of Covid. As a community, we have all worked together to ensure that we focus on doing everything possible to maintain the highest standards of education possible, both academically and for your child's personal development too.

As I started to write this letter, I had just returned from one of the most joyful school evenings since the outbreak of Covid. It seems almost impossible to think that, two years ago, we were entering our first period of lockdown and remote education! Two years on and, whilst we are still battling Covid cases, there has been so much to enjoy and celebrate as school life continues on the road back to 'normality'. This term we have been able to resume parts of school life we used to take for granted such as assemblies, extra-curricular activities, our Chocolate Bingo DPSA event, not to mention the Easter Service today.

In school, it has been as busy as ever and the children have continued to throw themselves wholeheartedly into every opportunity. A super example of this was last week's Year 4 play. This was, the first live play with a full audience, for over two years and the children performed their socks off! What came across, loud and clear, was how much the children were enjoying themselves and how well they had worked as a team to create such a joyous production. Their confidence, energy and enthusiasm ensured each audience member left with their toes tapping and a smile on their faces!

We are delighted to be once again attending sporting fixtures which are amongst an array of recent events which have provided memorable experiences and successes - in football, tag rugby, hockey and cross country. The return of the school choir has been another highlight, as are the wide range of new extra-curricular activities, such as pottery, musical theatre, art, dance, cricket, football and 11+ club. So as a community, when we look to the future there is so much to celebrate.

As with all the opportunities on offer, they would not be possible without our talented team of staff and I know the whole community will join me in thanking all those who enable your children to have access to so many enriching experiences. Many more experiences will be with us soon, examples being the Year 4 and Year 6 residentials planned for the coming terms. I know the staff and children involved are very excited to be setting off to New Barn and PGL. My thanks go, in particular, to Miss Palmer, Mrs Payne and Mr Bunn who have organised these trips despite the endless challenges that have been involved because of Covid restrictions. We hope the weather is good and hope the children enjoy their residentials. Thanks also to Governors for their continued support and guidance. We are very fortunate to have such a strong school community.



In school, our day-to-day work has focused on ensuring we build on the learning undertaken - the buzz of a more 'unrestricted' style of classroom activity has been heartening to see and hear. Our children's determination to learn, do their best and be resilient in the face of the challenges they have experienced can be seen in the number of best efforts and house points awarded on a daily basis. It is also particularly pleasing to see so many of these related to our school values of love, peace and joy.

At the end of term, we sometimes say goodbye to much valued friends and colleagues. This term, we say a sad farewell to Mrs Watling our lovely story teller, librarian and much loved teaching assistant and Mrs Kitley our wonderful PHSE lead and intervention teacher. We wish them both all the very best as they move onto pastures new and send our warmest wishes with them. We will miss them.

I would like to thank the DPSA, for last week's chocolate bingo event which raised over £678 for the school! Having a magical childhood remains a firm aim of the School and events such as this contribute to every child's bank of happy memories. Thank you!

I look forward to welcoming all the community back after a well-deserved rest over the Easter break where I am hopeful that we will have warmer weather and even more exciting things for our children to do to continue their learning experiences. We are already planning more events to invite the wider community into school and I look forward to sharing these experiences with you all. Thank you to all the parents, staff and governors and most importantly children for helping me make Downton Primary School more open once again. Exciting times are ahead.

I wish everyone in our community a very happy and restful Easter break, and look forward to welcoming children back to school for the Summer Term at 8:40am on Monday 25th April.

Best wishes



Paula Carlton

