



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Wednesday 19th October 2022

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of a very busy and productive first term here at Downton Primary School. Your children have worked so hard and strived for success in so many areas of school life. The school is a vibrant, lively and dynamic place where all children are given a chance to learn, grow and understand their world. They have had a wonderful first term settling into their new classes, getting to know their teachers and working with friends old and new.

Thank you goes out to all of our volunteers and parents who have contributed to school life in so many ways this term. In this regard, I want to personally thank you all - our families truly make Downton the special learning community it is.

Sustainability Day

Last week, we held our Sustainability Day where our children reflected on how as individuals we could live more sustainably, looking after the world leaving resources for future generations. As a way of learning to 'Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle', the children engaged in various creative activities throughout the school.



On the day, our Reception children explored farming by 'harvesting' cress, and using it to make sandwiches. Years 1 and 2 put their baking skills to the test by rustling up some Fair Trade chocolate crispie cakes – they certainly looked delicious!



Our Key Stage 2 children focussed on reducing consumption by re-using and repurposing. With Years 3 and 4, repurposing paper to make artwork using a technique called 'quilling', with some outstanding results. Year 5 repurposed old t-shirts by bringing them to life with natural tie dye. The dyes were all made from natural sources, including beetroot, spinach and carrot. Finally, Year 6, used beeswax and material to create sandwich wraps, as an alternative to using cling film and foil. All these wonderful activities were planned and organised by Mrs Wells, with the help of Mrs Hawkins, helping our pupils discover more sustainability. We hope these activities have helped embed some new habits about changes they can make at home to help our world and its future generations.

Fair Trade Café

We also wrapped up our Sustainability Day last week with a pop up Fair Trade café after school. A huge thank you to all who helped to support this event – from all the bakers who kindly donated cakes, to Lover Repair Café for their support and expertise and to you our parents for attending. We raised a fantastic £203.45 for WaterAid, whose aim is to make clean water and good hygiene accessible for everyone, everywhere in the world within a generation.



Lover Repair Cafe

Lover Repair Café are a team of wonderful team – before you bin it, contact them they may fix it – whether it be electronics, ceramics, bikes, garden tools – they are on hand to help. They are open every Wednesday and Friday 10am til 12pm in Redlynch Village Hall. You can also enquire at loverrepaircafe@gmail.com

Year 4/5 Tri Golf

Last week, Mrs Dawkins, a professional golf instructor, visited our school to coach a group of our Year 4 and 5 pupils ahead of an upcoming golf tournament. The children were taught how to stand correctly and what strokes to use during the session. Following this training, our team attended Salisbury Golf Centre to participate in the Salisbury games tournament against fourteen other schools. Our children showed great self-belief and sportsmanship. They completed the course expertly and even qualified for the regional finals at Dauntsey's School. Congratulations to the team – we are all very proud of you!





New school menu

Starting next term, we have a new lunch menu which will run until April 2023. You can now find our new menu on our website via this link: <https://downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk/school-meals-milk>

The Bridge Project

This term, our Year 3/4 classed were visited by the Bridge Project. In the sessions, they learnt about caring for the world, and how they as stewards can help look after it. Children talked about how this could look and reviewed the different ways they could look after the planet, linking with our Sustainability Day. They all shared their ideas illustrating the things they could do as a result. Each child presented their great ideas to their peers. The children confidently shared initiatives such as saving water, recycling, thinking about other ways to travel and reusing paper.



Harvest

As part of our Harvest celebrations on Friday, we welcomed Phil and Katy from the Baptist Church to lead worship. Their worship explored the whole harvesting process, from planting seeds to cutting the crops. Phil even used his water gun to bring to life the watering process! We were grateful to one of our parents Mr Phillips, who took time out to share two of his tractors on the playground as a representation of harvest. His son George confidently spoke to the children explaining all the features of the tractors and answering their questions. Thank you Mr Phillips for your time and bringing in your wonderful tractors for us all to see.



We would also like to say thank to you our families for your food donations for this harvest. Several trolleys were full as a result of your efforts and were delivered earlier this week to the LARDER at Downton Baptist Church by some of our Year 5 and 6 children.



KS1 village walks

Earlier this week as part of their geography work, the children from Foxes, Dormice and Hedgehogs embarked on a walk through the village. Armed with their checklists, the task for the children during the walk was to identify physical features and human features of Downton and compare them with the findings from their research of London throughout their topic work this term.



Black History Month and National Poetry Day

Black History Month features on our calendar every October. This year one of the activities was to combine our Black History learning with National Poetry Day. During the day, children reviewed poetry by black poets, which gave them greater insight into how different experiences influence the poetry they wrote. This was inspirational with the school coming alive through drama, artistic interpretations, music and poetry. This event gave us an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the fact that we are all different in so many ways and that love can shine through these differences.



As we approach the end of term, on behalf of the whole team at Downton, I would like to wish you all a wonderful half term break. We will see you on Monday 31st October.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

