

Downton Church of England VA Primary School

Gravel Close, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3LZ

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs A Bates BA (Hons) QTS & Mrs M Ford BA (Hons) QTS



Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome back, everyone! The autumn leaves may be falling, but our spirits are rising as we dive into the first week of school after the refreshing half-term break. It's been a fantastic start as our children, teachers, and staff returned with renewed energy and enthusiasm, ready to embark on exciting learning adventures and the exciting Christmas term ahead.

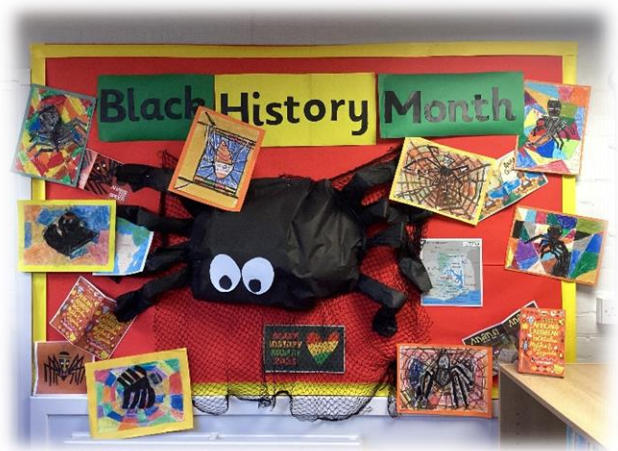
Reader of the Term trip

We had an out-of-this-world experience at the Rocketship Bookshop yesterday! Our Readers of the Term embarked on a literary adventure that left them truly inspired. They perused the shelves and each selected a book that caught their eye. After making their book selections, we gathered around as Jo took them on an enchanting journey with three captivating stories. To finish of the morning, the children enjoyed a warm cup of hot chocolate at Boston Tea Party. What a delightful way to spend a morning among fellow book lovers and ignite our imaginations! If you're ever in the area, don't miss the Rocketship Bookshop - it's a literacy haven for all ages.



Black History Month

Throughout October, we have been celebrating Black History Month. This year, we have had a whole school focus on Anansi Stories which originated from the Ashanti people of Ghana. They also spread to the Caribbean by way of the transatlantic slave trade. Anansi, who is often referred to as the "God of Stories" is a spider trickster figure in African folklore. The children had were immersed in creative opportunities which involved drama, art, creative writing and even music. Everyone enjoyed the showcase assembly this week and children enjoyed sharing what they had learnt with the rest of the school. Ask your child to share some stories they have learnt and if they are in KS1, they may even be able to sing you a song! Learning about black history is important all year round – to find out more we encourage you to visit our virtual library and take a look at some of the books in our 'Black Lives Matter' section.



Young Carer Friendly Award
Education



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Art Club

Art Club for Key Stage One returned this week with great enthusiasm and creativity! During the session, the young artists explored the use oil pastels and brought pumpkins to life on black card. The budding talents in the club demonstrated their artistic flair and imaginative spirit as they sketched vibrant and expressive pumpkins, setting the stage for an exciting journey in the world of art. We look forward to more colourful and imaginative adventures in the weeks to come.

Bag2School

Starting today, you can drop off your gently used items in the designated collection area in the school office. We're accepting a wide range of items, including clothes, paired shoes, handbags, jewellery, hats, bags, ties, household linen, and so much more. This is a fantastic opportunity to declutter your home while supporting a great cause. The Bag2School collection date is set for Wednesday 15th November, so be sure to get your donations in by then. For a comprehensive list of accepted items, please visit their website - <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>. Let's come together as a school community to make a positive impact and give back through Bag2School. Your contributions truly make a difference.



Christmas Extravaganza Raffle

Our annual Christmas Extravaganza is just around the corner with only 4 weeks to go, and it promises to be a wonderful event filled with festive cheer and community spirit. As many of you know, the prize raffle is a significant component of our fundraising efforts during the extravaganza, and it's always a big hit with our attendees. This year, we are in need of your support in helping us obtain raffle prizes, whether it be a service or a donation from your place of work. Your generous contributions will help us raise much-needed funds for our school. Thank you for helping us make this event a memorable one. We couldn't do it without your support.



As we come to the end of our first week back after the half-term break, I want to wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend ahead. Despite the rain this week, let's hope for brighter skies and a chance to recharge for the weeks ahead.

Paula Carlton



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