



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs A Bates BSC PGCE QTS



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Families,

This week has been filled with festive activities already. The Christmas Extravaganza, visits to the Secret Present Room, Carol singing and of course our Reception Nativity. Amongst all of this children continue to learn with maths, literacy and science in full flow. What a very special place Downton is.

## Reception Nursery Rhyme Nativity

As ever, we all feel very proud of the Reception children who participated in their first Nativity performance this week along. A lot of hard work has gone into getting them ready. I would also like to thank you our parents for helping to prepare your children and provide costumes for these wonderful events. I would also like to thank you for complying with our Health and



Safety guidance. Your adherence with this meant that we could go ahead with live performances which also meant so much to the children – thank you! I must also thank the staff who have spent many hours preparing the children for their moment in the spot light. The performances are just magical. So much so that on Monday's Year R dress rehearsal everyone sang and acted out their parts so enthusiastically! We look forward to seeing our Key Stage One children perform their Nativity next week.

## Christmas Extravaganza

What a wonderful evening! Thank you all for attending this wonderful Christmas event and making it a very special and memorable evening. I would like to thank Andy and Kayleigh Savage, the DPSA team and their helpers for ensuring that our children had the most wonderful start to this Christmas. With your support the DPSA raised an amazing £2,731 – funds which will benefit every child. Please do join us for the next DPSA on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January to find out what these funds will be used for along with our plans for events for 2022 – we would love see more parents involved in helping make these wonderful events happen.



## Photographs

As always, parents are very welcome to take photos at school events such as the Nativity, but please be considerate about what you do with them. If you do take photographs of your children at any school event, please be responsible in your use of those photos if they also feature other people's children. We ask that you do not share photographs on social media sites without the permission of the parents of a child who is in the photograph.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Don't forget that Thursday 19th December is Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. No need to buy anything special, it is perfectly ok to decorate an old jumper with tinsel and decorations. The suggested donation is £1. Children will be expected to wear their Christmas jumper with their School uniform instead of their School jumper. Ties will not be worn.



## Christmas Lunch

To make the day even more special, we are looking forward to annual Christmas lunch on Thursday 19th December. The kitchen team will be serving a delicious Christmas dinner. So don't forget to remind your child to order a hot lunch that day, Mrs Judd's Christmas dinner is a very special treat! It will be a very festive occasion with our children wearing their Christmas jumpers too.

## Secret Present Room

This being my fourth Christmas at Downton, I can honestly say how wonderful the celebrations are, everyone always puts so much effort into ensuring that Christmas is memorable for our children. Even this week, the DPSA elves were been busy lending Santa a hand in our Secret Present Room, filling his sack with treats for our parents.



## Scholastic Book Fair

If you haven't already done so, please don't forget to order a book from the Scholastic Book Fair. Every child has enjoyed their class visit and are bringing home their wish list – just in case Santa is struggling. The book fair will be available either inside or outside the front office (weather dependent) with pick up on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. being the last opportunity to browse and purchase.

## Carol Service

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our end of term Carol Service at St Laurence's on Friday 17th December. As our attendance would not comply with our latest PH guidance This has been a really difficult decision and one which we have not taken easily. We will be holding a Carol Service in school and will be sending a link home so that you and your child, can enjoy this virtual Carol with your extended families. This does mean that school will end at 1:30pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. I am sure that by this time you will all be ready for a well-earned break and all looking forward to your own family celebrations.



## Absence Reporting

We are still receiving an increase in queries with regards to reporting absence and the period of time children must be absent for certain illnesses. Even if we are aware that a child is absent due to the required 48 hours following an episode of sickness, we still require communication from parents each day their child is absent – this is part of our safeguarding responsibilities. To help with understanding the absence requirements for certain illnesses, you can find our Infection Control Guidance on our policies page on our website - <https://downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk/policies>

I would like to thank you our families and staff for making our school the special place that it is. A place all children can truly thrive.

*Paula Carter*

