



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

Gravel Close, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3LZ

Telephone: 01725 510556

Email: admin@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk Website: www.downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Ford BA (Hons)



Friday 11th November 2022

Dear friends and families,

This term is filled with exciting learning opportunities for your children, shortly we will be sending home a Christmas newsletter so that you can include all of those important dates in your diary.

Remembrance Service

Today, in school, we held a moving service to commemorate Remembrance Day. Children across the school made poppies and laid them out across the hall before the service. Children shared poetry and prayers. As a school we held a two minutes' silence at 11:00am starting with the chimes of Big Ben and ending with the last post played by Mr Hind. During this time, we reflected on those people who had given their lives for the peace and freedom that we enjoy today and for those who may be involved in wars today.



At the end of the Service, Key Stage 2 Worship Council laid a Remembrance wreath at the Memorial Hall, as representatives of our school community.



Open Afternoons

From January we will once again be holding open classrooms during Celebration Worship. The event will take place on a Friday at 2:30pm with details of the classes listed below:

Friday 13th of January – Rabbits and Squirrels

Friday 20th of January – Dormice, Foxes and Hedgehogs

Friday 27th of January – Badgers, Hawks and Kestrels

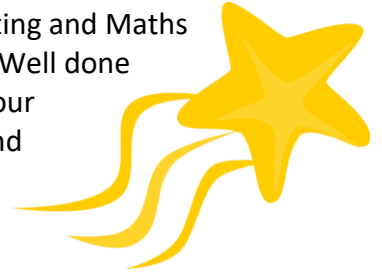
Friday 3rd of February – Stags, Owls and Falcons

We do hope you can join us.



Key stage Two results.

Our end of Key Stage results have been published today with our Reading, Writing and Maths results judged as 'significantly **above** national and in the **highest** 20% in 2022.' Well done everyone! I would like to thank you all for the wonderful support you give to your children with homework. Your help, in hearing them read, practice spellings and timestables has really made a huge difference to the work we do in school. Please join me in thanking our wonderful team for their dedication and hard work.



Coming soon

We have further exciting news to share with you very soon about a very special event in January. In the meantime, Key Stage 1 have hit the ground running, exploring colour mixing using hot and cold colours. Watch this space for further news!



Oral Health

Our Reception children enjoyed a visit from Jenny and Olivia Wordley. Jenny is one of the dentists at The Borough Practice in Downton. Jenny talked to the children about how to keep their teeth clean, and the children loved cleaning the sugary foods off of "Molly Molar". They also learnt about incisors and molars and enjoyed singing the teeth cleaning song. All of the children took home a teeth cleaning chart and we are looking forward to seeing how they get on! Thank you Jenny and Olivia for coming to talk to us, we learnt so much!



Budding Scientists

EYFS were immersed in science based activities today as they used microscopes to study and make observations of seeds. These future scientists were captivated by what they could see under the lens.



Disco

Last night's DPSA school disco was just such a wonderful event. It was wonderful to see so many happy children, dressed up and dancing to the sounds of Disco Dion. A huge thank you to our DPSA committee and those of you who volunteered to help. You raised over £750 for the school, and made our children very happy – thank you!



Who says maths can't be fun?

Certainly not Squirrels and Rabbits classes! This week they have had a wonderful time exploring the properties of different shapes through art and on the light table – we love these triangles. They have also become quite adept at making five, in the bean bag game.



Next week...



Harry Potter Trip

Year 5 (and me) are all looking forward to our visit to the Harry Potter Studios on Monday, this is a little reminder that children need to be at school by 7:00am for a prompt departure.

Odd Socks Day

Next week is Anti-bullying week across the nation. On Monday to mark the start of this initiative, children are invited to wear odd socks to school. This start to the week sends an important message to all pupils that they are all unique and should be allowed to be themselves and free from bullying in a fun and positive way. We will be focusing on how we can be supportive friends during the day and rest of the week, which will help us celebrate both our differences and our unity within the Downton Primary School community.



Children in Need

Next Friday we will be celebrating Children in Need. The charity has recognized that the last couple of years have been incredibly hard for children and young people. Living through Covid has caused feelings of anxiety, fear and hopelessness in too many children; and the cost of living crisis is now pushing even more families into hardship. So this year, funding will be used to address these issues. Children wishing to participate are invited to bring a coin for Pudsey and wear yellow or spotty socks or tights with their school uniform. We are looking forward to supporting this worthwhile cause.



Your children always work so hard to be the best they can be, but make it look so easy as they are often laughing and giggling when learning. They never cease to amaze me how kind, talented and ambitious they are for themselves and each other in so many areas of school life. What a wonderful place to work!

Have a wonderful weekend

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

