



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 12th November 2021

Dear Families,

This term our Downton School community are really demonstrating our values of love, peace and joy. The school really is a special place to be – thank you all for the part you play in this.



Remembrance Service

Yesterday, in school, we held a moving service to commemorate Remembrance Day. During our one minutes silence we reflected on those people who had given their lives for the peace and freedom that we enjoy today. Falcons class shared letters from wartime, composed in class, sang Flanders Field and read passages from favourite books set in times of conflict. Year 5 made and wore recyclable poppies and the rest of the school laid poppies around our KS1 art work. Throughout the service, our pupils reflected on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women. It truly was a very special service, thank you Mr Bunn and Year 6.



Children in Need

Our children are always thinking of others. Despite being a week earlier than the national event, children thoroughly put their heart and soul into today's Children in Need. Everyone made such a huge effort for this fundraising, wearing spots, ears and even fancy dress – and Barnaby in Year 5 in particular, raising £21 on his own after having patterns shaved in his hair! Pudsey as usual was ready in the hall first thing to collect the donations as the children came into school and we even had some special guests on the playground at break time! As a school community today we have raised over £250 to help other children. Thank you to parents, staff and children for making today such a success.



Reception Performances

Last week, our Reception children took to our outdoor stage to perform the story of Rama and Sita, as a part of their learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali. It was lovely to see their enthusiastic performances in front of a live audience too. They thoroughly enjoyed acting out their parts and learning the story from each other.



Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week and the theme is "One Kind Word". On Monday 15th November, please encourage your children to come into school wearing odd socks for the day. This will remind us that we are all special and unique, and encourage us to respect and celebrate differences between us. At our school we do not tolerate bullying at any time, and encourage our children to speak out. We will continue to raise awareness in Anti-Bullying week through worship and class activities



Keeping Children Safe Online

At Downton, we work throughout the year to ensure that our children know how to be safe online. We run e-safety sessions, not just annually but as an integrated aspect of our ICT lessons. A major part of this is helping our parents to support their understanding of current ICT issues. This helps everyone use the internet and digital media in a safe and secure way. Each month we post a newsletter on our website, sharing the latest e-Safety news for families. This month's newsletter, gives advice on how to make YouTube and Minecraft safer for children. A link to the current newsletter is posted here:

<https://downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk/esafety>



Living Rainforest

On Monday, Year 4 will be visiting the Living Rainforest to experience the sights, sounds and smells of a lush tropical rainforest. They will visit each of the three glasshouses that are home to over 850 types of rainforest plants and animals – including rare and endangered species of global conservation value. Whilst they will be wearing school uniform – we do hope that they wear odd socks to show support for the 'one kind word' initiative.

DPSA Meeting Wednesday

The DPSA work very hard to run amazing events for our school and historically have funded our mini buses, reducing the cost of trips for everyone. They are currently preparing the secret present room and working hard on running a spectacular Christmas Extravaganza this year. These special events are valued by us all. These events and others are being planned on Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. The meeting is being held on zoom and we would really appreciate it if you could spare just 30 minutes to join the meeting, your views are important to us. The meeting can be accessed via this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86162897668?pwd=WkdtZWU0UjA5d3FIZlFOUW8zTG9EZz09>

Please do come along and help the DPSA create wonderful memories for all our children and raise vital funds to keep our school running. Thank you



Bags to School

Thank you so much to those of you who have already donated bags for this initiative. The pick-up is first thing on Tuesday so there is still time to drop off bags of clothes, bedding, curtains and old shoes for recycling. Please drop these into the school office. The larger the pile, the more funding the school will receive. We will be delighted to have as many bags as possible in school for the weighing on Tuesday morning.



DPS Climate Conference

Inspired by COP26, Mrs Wells and Eco-Council are hosting their very own climate conference on Thursday next week. Every adult and child in the school (as well as governors) have been asked by our eco-council to review our Eco-code and contribute suggestions for making the school more sustainable. The council will be reporting back at the conference on Thursday 18th November. We are all looking forward to working on the new initiatives raised.



VOLUNTEER



Parent Volunteers – School Trips and Reading

Key Stage One are looking forward to visiting the planetarium dome in the Memorial Hall next Thursday morning. We are always looking for parent volunteers, to accompany us on trips or to help with reading. If you are DBS checked and able to join us for either of these, please let the office know.



Open Morning

We will be hosting an Open Morning for prospective parents for our 2022 intake on Thursday 25th November . If you know anyone who is applying for a primary school place for 2022, please do let them know - we would love to get to know them and show them around our wonderful school.

Latest Public Health Advice

It is important to share the latest Public Health Advice to schools with you. This is particularly important as lots of colds and other non-Covid symptoms are circulating. As always, in the first instance any new persistent cough and high temperatures should be treated as possible COVID-19 and trigger isolation and testing. This is the case even if others in the class have tested negative for similar symptoms. The advice is if children are feeling unwell they should stay at home until symptom free. Where individuals test negative for COVID-19, and they have had a fever, they should still wait until 24 hours post fever to go back into a setting. If a member of the family tests positive for Covid19, a child with a negative PCR can attend school, but they do need to conduct daily lateral flow tests. Should cases in school continue to rise, we may need to reduce mixing but will not be returning to bubbles at this time.

With my very best wishes



Headteacher

