



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Ford BA (Hons)



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Families,

The term has started really well, there is a real buzz along the corridors as children learn. What a lovely start to the term.

### Camera Mobile Phones and Wearable Technology

Smart Phones with cameras are becoming increasingly popular and a built in digital camera enables users to take high resolution pictures. These can be sent instantly to other mobile phone users or email addresses. They can also be posted on the internet or in chat rooms. There is a potential for camera mobile phones to be misused in schools. They can become an instrument of bullying or harassment directed against pupils or/and staff. The use of Smart Watches is not appropriate in school due to risks of loss and damage and of misuse in the same way as mobile phones or tablets. Therefore, we would ask that you do not send children into school with these devices. Children in Year 5 and 6 who walk to and from school are able to bring their mobile phones to school however must be handed over to their class teacher or TA to be locked in the office during the school day.



### Exciting News

Please join us in thanking Andy Savage of ASG Landscaping for sponsoring our new sports kit. As you can see from the picture below our children will look very professional as they participate in both football and hockey competitions over the next few weeks.





### DPSA Meeting

The first DPSA meeting of 2022, was held on Tuesday this week. I am delighted to announce that during the meeting Eleanor Bass and Paula Gardner were voted in as joint DPSA chairs. We hope you will get involved with the DPSA as much as you are able and help to support all the things we do to raise much needed funds for our school! As a result of recent fundraising and continued support of the events by our parents and the community, the DPSA have kindly agreed to fund a further set of Chromebooks for the school. These will be in place very soon.

### Bird feeders made by our Eco-Council

Our Year 5 teacher Miss Abel provided some great inspiration along with the materials for our Eco-Council to make eco-friendly bird feeders. The children were given apples, sunflower seeds, wooden sticks and string to create bird feeders with Mrs Wells which have been hung in the front garden of the school for the birds to enjoy. The children spotted some sparrows waiting in the hedge while they hung them up high and can't wait to revisit the garden soon to see how much the birds have eaten.



### Face coverings on site

We would ask that all adults (including for pick up and drop off) wear masks whilst on the school site. Should you come into the building we would ask that you have a negative lateral flow result prior to doing so. Have a restful weekend.

### Secret Present Room

Christmas may now be a distant memory for most however the DPSA are already planning ahead for the year, including the ever popular Secret Present Room. If you have any leftover wrapping paper, gift tags, bows or ribbons, they would love them for this year. They would also be grateful for any unwanted Christmas gifts that you would be happy to donate – gifts must be new and unused, suitable for adults and contain no food products. All donations can be dropped in to the school office.



### Volcanic activity in Year 4

As part of their volcano project, Sophie has made this amazing volcano at home and has brought it into school to share with the class. They have today conducted a scientific experiment using coca cola and mentos to create their very own volcanic eruption. The children thoroughly enjoyed this – please do keep sharing your home learning with us.

Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

