



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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



Friday 17th March 2023

Dear Friends and Families,

Easter is almost upon us with only two weeks of the term left and we still have some much coming up for the school community. This week, the children have been working hard in school to create Easter cards as part of an art competition we have been invited to take part in at Ashley Grange Nursing Home. As you can see, we have had some beautiful cards created in school and next week our KS2 School Councillors will take them to share with the residents at Ashley Grange.



Tree Planting at Trafalgar

We would like to extend our thanks to Mr Williams and Mr Bryce from the Trafalgar School, for inviting our KS2 Eco-councillors to plant trees on the secondary school site. The children really enjoyed making a difference to our local area as well as visiting our neighbours. They all demonstrated great team work as they planted trees donated by the Woodland Trust. A wonderful experience.



Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Centre

Last Friday our Year 5 pupils visited the Intech Science Museum in Winchester. During the day they explored various scientific concepts using a range of devices such as cranes, they even had great fun changing the pitch of their voices using sound waves. They tell me that they even used a machine which taught sign language when they entered words and phrases. They particularly loved the ground floor section which had lots of games, two particular favourites being a round crater which they had to use forces to get balls into large craters and a 'little big room' which looked very small if viewed from different perspectives. The children told me they enjoyed it and definitely want to go back!



Drop off Gravel Close Entrance

There have been a number of incidents/near misses this term with children almost being hit by a car in Gravel close at drop off and pick up. Please avoid driving on Gravel Close as always during this busy time. In School we will be reminding children about road safety measures and the rules relating to scooters and bikes and would appreciate it if you could also do this at home. We would also be grateful if waiting parents stood on the pavement, not on the road, as doing so models the correct behaviour for our children. Thank you.

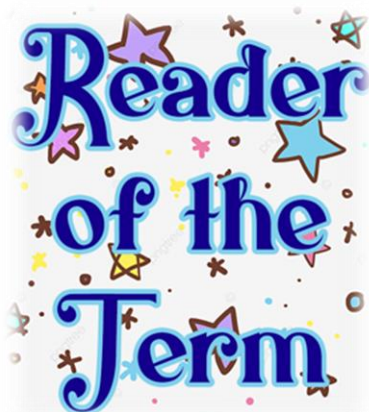
Scooter and Bike Rules

- Please remember, our gates open at 8:40, so we would ask that children do not arrive too early.
- Before school, unaccompanied Year 5 and 6 should wait at the brown gate and not on the road.
- When riding a bike or scooter, children should wear a helmet at all times.
- At the end of the school day, children should not be on bikes or scooters until they have safely left the white gates.



Readers of the Term

Congratulations to all of our readers of the week and to our Readers of the term announced today. This term's winners are:



Squirrels	Esmae
Rabbits	Bailey
Dormice	Jack
Foxes	Harriet
Hedgehogs	Zack
Badgers	Emily
Hawks	Ralph
Kestrels	Louis
Owls	Maddie
Stags	Annabelle
Falcons	Lily

The children named above will all attend the 'Reader of the Term' treat on Monday 20th March – well done all of you!



Cross Country Success

Well done to our KS2 team of runners who completed against other local schools at Trafalgar School last week. The children were outstanding, with their hard work and determination resulting in all of our school teams winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall. In the individual races, Ava placed 1st in Year 3/4 girls, Daniel came in 1st place with Cooper placing 2nd in Year 3/4 boys. Over in the Year 5/6 boys race category, William placed 1st, Fraser in 2nd and Gilbert 3rd. Well done to all the children who took part – you represented the school with such pride and we are proud of you all.



A few reminders

- We appreciate that mornings can be a rush however please can we politely remind you that for health and safety reasons, all children with long hair must have this tied up for school. Thank you.
- If your child is absent from school, their absence must be reported to the school office by 9am. This can be done via email or leaving a voicemail on the office answer machine. Subsequently, if your child is off due to an illness that requires them to be absent for a certain period of time (for example, 48 hours for sickness or until all chickenpox blisters have crusted over), we still require contact from a parent every day to confirm their absence. Help with how long your child needs to be absent for with certain illnesses can be found here on our website: <https://downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk/s/Infection-control-poster-wiltshirecouncil.pdf>

Events over the next two weeks:

We are looking forward to seeing you all in some manner either in school or church over the next few weeks – so I have listed the main events below to help with diaries:

Monday 20 th March	Reader of the Term trip to Rocketship Bookshop
Monday 20 th March	2:30pm – Choir Concert on outdoor stage – entrance via Memorial Gardens
Wednesday 22 nd March	Reports home to parents
Friday 24 th March	DPSA Chocolate BINGO – eyes down at 5:30pm
Friday 31 st March	Last day of term – church service at St Laurences at 2pm

Happy St Patricks day and have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

