

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

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



Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Families,

As we embark upon this exciting festive season, a series of delightful events awaits us on the path to Christmas. As this is a busy time of year for everyone, we hope that this letter will be both helpful and exciting, providing you with all the details about the upcoming activities scheduled for the remainder of the term.

**DRESS
DOWN
DAY**

Dress Down Day - Friday 24th November

Friday 25th November will be a non-school uniform day in exchange for a bottle or chocolate donation. There is no theme for this year's dress down day, children can simply wear their own clothes instead of their uniform. Any bottle of drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) or chocolate donations will be gratefully received and used for the upcoming Extravaganza for the Bottle Tombola and Chocolate Tombola.

Surprise Boxes – to be returned by Wednesday 29th November

One of the most popular stalls at the Christmas Extravaganza is always the Surprise Cups, however this year we have changed this to Surprise Boxes to be more eco-friendly. The boxes are wrapped up and filled with the likes of stationary, small toys, stickers, sweets and chocolates which the children can buy. If you are able to, and have already done so, we would love you to **fill, wrap and return to the office by Wednesday 29th November**. Please mark on it whether the contents are best suited to **Boy, Girl or Unisex** – thank you. There are also spare boxes in the office should you need one or would like to fill an additional box.



Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Extravaganza – Friday 1st December

We are thrilled to announce the return of a very special guest to this year's Christmas Extravaganza. Just like in previous years, the enchanting Grotto will be open to groups of children, providing them with a magical opportunity to meet Santa in person and enjoy a whimsical festive story read by Santa himself. To ensure your child's spot, be sure to book one of the limited spaces available during the designated time slots: 4:10 pm, 4:30 pm, 4:50 pm, and 5:10 pm. Bookings can now be made through SchoolGateway and must be secured in advance – we are unable to accommodate requests on the evening as Santa has a subsequent engagement. The cost is £1.50 per child, and each visitor will receive a delightful sweet treat as a special token following their enchanting encounter.

DPSA Christmas Prize Raffle – tickets on sale now

The DPSA have once again been overwhelmed with the generosity of local businesses with donations for their Prize Raffle which will be drawn at this year's Christmas Extravaganza. The top prize is a voucher for Paultons Park followed by a £50 Smyths voucher as well as a fantastic amount of other prizes too! Tickets can be purchased now from the school office and also on the night. Tickets are £3 per strip or £5 for two strips and is cash only payment.



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Christmas Extravaganza - Friday 1st December

The highly anticipated Christmas Extravaganza, organised by the DPSA, returns on Friday, December 1st. This festive event will maintain its cherished format, featuring a beautifully lit marquee, stalls, fun games, and much more. The success of the Extravaganza greatly relies on the support of volunteers, and your participation is crucial to ensuring the event unfolds as planned. With just 30 minutes of your time, we can collectively contribute to making this occasion a resounding success for the children, families, and the local community. Being part of this event is truly rewarding, and we invite you to join us. If you're able to spare some time, please sign up using the following link:

<https://signup.zone/CQN3Tfy3xfKCQvzet>



Savage Christmas Lights - Saturday 2nd December onwards

As some of you might know, Mr. and Mrs. Savage traditionally adorn their house with thousands of Christmas lights, supporting a different charity each year. However, this marks their final year, and they aim to make it unforgettable! In memory of a dear individual close to their family, they've chosen to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity. We encourage you to visit their dazzling display on Catherine Crescent, illuminated from 6pm on Saturday, December 2nd. The spectacle will be enhanced with a fireworks show, generously sponsored by local businesses and community members. Don't miss this luminous and heartfelt finale!

Secret Present Room - w/c 4th December

During the week starting December 4th, the nest will undergo a festive transformation into the Secret Present Room, courtesy of the DPSA! For those unfamiliar with the Secret Present Room, it offers children a delightful chance to select a surprise gift for a special someone, whether it's a parent, grandparent, or even a beloved pet. Each gift is priced at £3.50, and advanced purchases through SchoolGateway are necessary if you wish for your child to explore the Secret Present Room. Similar to the Extravaganza, the DPSA seeks assistance in managing this event. If you'd like to contribute, kindly sign up using the following link: <https://signup.zone/58fsYAJw6KYeBRkP>



Nativities

This year's Christmas performances are taking place on the following dates:

Year R present A Little Nativity - Tuesday 5th (2pm) & Wednesday 6th December (9:30am)

KS1 present The Inn-Spectors — Monday 11th (2pm) & Tuesday 12th December (9:30am & 2pm)

Don't forget to book your tickets via SchoolGateway. Reception children have 2 tickets to each of their performances and KS1 children can purchase up to 3 tickets each to be used at whichever performance(s) suit.



Staff to take part in the Santa Fun Run!

On Sunday 10th December, a spirited team of our dedicated staff will be participating in the upcoming Santa Fun Run in Salisbury, a festive event aimed at spreading joy and goodwill. Our enthusiastic team will be lacing up their running shoes, putting on their Santa suits, ready to dash through the holiday spirit, all while raising funds for Naomi House and Jacksplace. We extend our wholehearted support to Mrs Bates, Mrs Savage, Miss Emm, Miss Brown and Mrs Yevko (and maybe even more who will be joining them!) as they embark on this charitable journey. If you would like to sponsor them, you are able to do so via their JustGiving page -

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/dps-santa-fun-run-2023>



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Song for Christmas on Salisbury Radio

Our reception children have been working hard to learn a festive song which will be performed and recorded by Salisbury Radio on Monday 27th November. This year, the winning school will receive a £250 book voucher and the winners trophy, with the runners-up receiving £150 in book vouchers. We will share more information about when to tune in to hear their festive song when we know more – watch this space!



Downton Christmas Tree Festival at St Laurence's Church

Celebrate the spirit of the season at St. Laurence's Church as we participate in the Downton Christmas Tree Festival. This year our tree will be created using the hand prints of all the children and aptly named "Positivi-Tree". Our Year 6 children will be creating decorations for the tree containing lots of positive messages for Christmas. The Christmas Tree Festival will start on Friday 1st December with a Choral Evensong, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. The church will also be open on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December from 10am til 4pm for the community to come and enjoy the display – further details are attached with this newsletter – please do pay it a visit.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch – Monday 18th December

Monday 18th December is our fabulous Christmas Lunch and so we invite all the children to wear their festive knits instead of their school jumpers. The Christmas lunch menu is attached with this newsletter and can be ordered on the day - no need to order in advance. All children are invited to enjoy a Christmas dinner.



Last day of term church service - Wednesday 20th December

Our last day of term is Wednesday 20th December along with our Christmas church service which will commence at 1:00pm. Parents are welcome to stand at the rear of the church should they wish to attend the service. As we will be walking the whole school to church, we do require lots of volunteers to help with this. If you are available and would like walk with the children to church, please let the school office know. The service will finish at 1:45pm and all children must be collected from church, no children will be allowed to walk home. If someone other than a parent or person named on your child's pick up list will be collecting your child, please let the office know by midday on Tuesday 19th December. As the whole school will be attending the service, the school office will be closed from midday on Wednesday 20th December.



We look forward to sharing these special festive events with you all. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and help, these events for you and your children to enjoy would not be possible without you.

Best wishes,

Paula Carlton



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