



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

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



Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Families,

Where has the term gone? We have all been busy learning and having so much fun it has crept up upon us. As we approach the end of Term 1, I can't help but reflect on the incredible journey we've been on together. It's been a term filled with memorable moments that have showcased the incredible spirit and dedication of our wonderful school community.



Today Key Stage One celebrated the end of their Castle topic learning, by coming into schools dressed as princesses and knights. During the day they have enjoyed creating their own coat of arms, learning facts about King Alfred the Great – and creating self-portraits of themselves as Kings and Queens. From the very first day of term our focus has been on nurturing a vibrant, safe, and engaging learning environment for your children. We're thrilled to have witnessed their curiosity, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning, and we're immensely proud of their achievements.

### Wiltshire Young Carers

As part of the Healthy Schools process we are delighted to have achieved 'The Young Carers Award' today. This award is developed by Carer Support to recognise the good practice for the identification and support of Young Carers. Along with the award, the school received a donation of books for the schools young carers to use.



### Golf champions

Last week a team of our Year 4 and 5 pupils had a fantastic time competing at the Salisbury Games Tri-golf tournament. They played exceptionally well and their hard work paid off as they emerged as the champions with an impressive score of 2737 points, winning themselves first place gold medals. This outstanding achievement has earned them a spot in the upcoming county finals. It's clear that all their effort and dedication has paid off and we are incredibly proud of their accomplishment.

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Dawkins for running a golf training session prior to the tournament. Her efforts have surely contributed to their success. Well done to everyone involved!





## Sustainability Day

Having listened to, read and watched a video with information about biodiversity on Sustainability Day this term, children then went on a treasure hunt to find lots of different living things to help them to appreciate how many things are classed as 'living things'. We discussed ways to increase biodiversity and the children applied this learning. They drew maps, from a birds eye view, of the playground and found ways of improving the biodiversity of the playground and introduce more living things. We finished by discussing where living things thrived in the school environment, which were the adventure and pond gardens – we realised we had a lot to thank Mrs Wells for!



## Bag2School

Bag2School is a company which collects and sells your unwanted textiles to importers and wholesalers overseas, benefiting the Circular Economy and contributing to a more sustainable world. For each kilo of clothes donated, Bag2School pays our school 30p, which means a simple bin liner filled with clothes is worth approximately £1.50. So if you having a pre-Christmas clear-out, it would be great if you could gather any clothes and textiles you no longer need. Donations will be accepted starting from Wednesday 1st November, and we kindly request that you **drop your bag(s) off no later than 9am on Wednesday 15th November**. There is no limit to the number of bags you can donate.

The more we collect, the more funds we can raise for our school and ensuring your children have even more incredible opportunities in the future. Your participation in Bag2School not only declutters your home but also helps us in our mission to support our school and the environment. Thank you for your involvement!

## Football success

We are thrilled to share some exciting news following today's Year 3/4 football tournament at Wyvern St. Edmunds. Over the course of the competition, the talented team played a total of 10 games, demonstrating remarkable teamwork and determination. We are proud to share that they secured an impressive 8 wins and 2 draws, remaining undefeated throughout the tournament. What's even more remarkable is that our defense was amazing, with not a single goal conceded! These fantastic performances led our team to a well-deserved 2nd place finish out of 11 competing schools. A huge well done to them all for their outstanding sportsmanship and hard work on the field.



## Timetable Change

## PE timetable changes

There have been some amendments to the PE timetable for Term 2 and we have attached an updated timetable alongside this newsletter. Please do familiarise yourselves with the revised days for each class.





### School Photos

Cardwell & Simons who completed our school photos yesterday no longer produce proof cards from which orders are placed. Instead, every child was given a unique code yesterday to bring home which is then used to place orders online – these should have either come home with the children yesterday or will be coming home today so please do check their bags. Please note that the photos will be available within 3-5 working days so do keep checking to see if the photos are ready. If your code has been misplaced, don't worry – simply contact the office who have access to the list of codes.

### Rotary Christmas Shoeboxes

Thank you to those who have already returned their Christmas Shoeboxes to us in the office. If you would like to support this wonderful cause, there is still time to do so. The deadline to return the boxes is after half term, and by 9am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October



### Mental Health Connect Four

Did you know that spending 10 minutes of uninterrupted, distraction-free time connecting with your child each day is proven to help their mental health? For this half term, we have created a 'Connection Connect Four' which is attached to this newsletter and full of ideas about different ways to connect with your child during the holidays. How many of these can you complete together this half term? Can you connect four in a row? We look forward to hearing about all of the fun you have had this half term.

### New Security System

As you may know, the safety and security of our school and the surrounding community are of paramount importance. In our ongoing efforts to enhance security, our school has recently employed a professional security company, Kestrels Security Services, to monitor and respond to our alarm system. Kestrels have a 24 hour control room so should you hear the alarm sounding at any point out of hours please do not hesitate to give them a call on 023 80 865658 quoting reference number **KH 6448**. Should they need to dispatch someone to respond to a security alert, their staff will be easily identifiable by their uniforms and identification badges. Please be rest assured that our goal in implementing this security measure is to enhance safety and peace of mind for everyone in our neighbourhood.



### New lunch menu

Next term sees the launch of the new school menu which runs until Easter. This can be found on our website and we have also attached a copy alongside this newsletter.

As we look forward to the next term, filled with new opportunities and experiences, we want to wish you all a restful and enjoyable break. May you cherish precious moments with your loved ones and return refreshed and ready for more exciting educational adventures in the coming term.

Thank you for being a part of our wonderful school community. We're excited about the journey ahead and look forward to all that the next term has in store for us.

Warm regards,

Paula Carlton

