



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 18th February 2022

Dear Families,

We have once again had a busy and enriched term. It is always a privilege to share the wonderful learning which happens within our school.

International Language Day

On Monday the school celebrated International Language Day with children learning about a range of languages and cultures with French, Spanish, Hindi and Japanese amongst them. During the day, children shared different texts and learnt all about different cultures. Some children built Parisian landmarks, producing some impressive models, others learnt the Three Billy Goats Gruff in French, inferred the context from stories written in 4 languages, as well as identifying the areas and percentages of different international flags. Even our youngest children, learnt to say hello and count to five in French. A huge thank you to our kitchen team who lovingly prepared our International day Italian lunch which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



Year 3 Painting at the Water Meadows

This term, our Year 3 children have been learning about the life and art of JMW Turner and, in particular, the way that he has used light in his compositions. Last week they took a short walk along Gravel Close taking their learning outside the classroom. They thoroughly enjoyed studying the beautiful Downton landscape and sketching and painting in the style of Turner, with some fabulous results.



DPSA Valentine Cake Sale

On Monday, our DPSA organised and held the first cake sale in school in what feels such a long time. They were blown away by the amount of lovely homemade cakes and cookies made by you our parents – there really was a great selection on offer on the stalls. On behalf of the DPSA, thank you to everyone who baked, bought and volunteered to help make the cake sale happen, and also to the Year 6 helpers who were fantastic. We are pleased to share with you that the cake sale raised a total of £270, funds which go directly to the school – thank you!



School Council Menu Tasting

On Tuesday, our School Council met to sample some new dishes for the upcoming new school lunch menu which starts after Easter. On offer was sweet and sour chicken, vegetarian sausages and also the bean burrito. Here is what Fraser from Year 4 had to say:

“On Tuesday we all met to taste some of the school food. Everyone really enjoyed it and said they thought the food was yummy. My favourite was the bean burrito!”



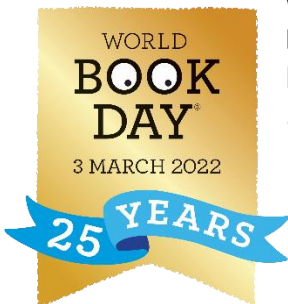
Pottery Club

This term we introduced Pottery Club to our after school club offerings, and what a fantastic and popular club it has proven to be. The children have been learning a selection of pottery skills throughout the term and also about firing clay in a kiln. They have made some wonderful pots which they have worked on from start to finish, from the initial moulding of the clay to glazing in their own colours and designs, finishing off in the kiln – excellent work and don't they look amazing.



World Book Day

Don't forget that Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day and our theme this year will be 'Once Upon a Time...'. We are asking the children to bring in their favourite book and come to school dressed as a character from the story. In school, children will be participating in activities directly linked to their particular book, so it is important that the children are familiar with the book they bring in. We also have a special World Book Day themed lunch menu on offer which we have attached with this newsletter. Please note that this does mean that there are other changes to the menu for that week which are also attached.



Switch Off Day

Once again our annual Switch Off Day was a success, with the lights and heating off, photocopying not permitted as well as the use of screens in lessons. With one exception. We would like to thank Mrs Outhwaite for joining us via zoom to share her reusable party kit available for hire. All of our children really enjoyed the challenges set by Mrs Wells, with each phase focusing on different aspects. Reception and Key Stage One classes focused on recycling – making plant pots from empty plastic bottles, decorated with recycled paper. They really enjoyed the planting too! During the day they were all given a problem to discuss and identify solutions, with each pupil making a pledge to make a difference. Even with the lights out, Year 3 children investigated the effect of global warming on the ice melting. Their reflections after conducting this experiment were really thoughtful especially when their findings indicated that the warmer the water is the quicker the ice cube melt. Year 6 took their renewable focus further with a study of renewable resources between 1950 and today, using this learning to predict usage in 2050.



Year 6 Trip to Salisbury Cathedral

Year 6 spent a really lovely day at Salisbury Cathedral this week. They were immersed into the artisan work of the stone masons. After touring the Cathedral, they studied the art and architectural styles of the building. The children then used these observations to create two-tone clay tiles, reflecting the wonderful shapes and detail that are evident everywhere in the Cathedral. The children were also fortunate to be taught some learn skills by the stone masons. Each individual carved blocks of stone with their own initials. A most wonderful day, that was matched by the focus and personal qualities of each individual Falcon.



DPSA Chocolate Bingo

Some of you may remember the DPSA Chocolate Bingo event and what a fun evening it is for all the family. The DPSA are excited to be bringing it back to Downton and have scheduled it for next term on Friday 1st April. Please do pop this date in your diary – it will be enjoyable for everyone. Booking forms will be sent out when we return to school on 1st March. To support this event, Friday 25th March will be a dress down day. Children will be asked to bring in an Easter egg, chocolate bar or box of chocolates in exchange for not wearing their uniform. These items will be collected by the DPSA at drop off that morning.



Dates for the Fridge

As we head into Term 4, we have attached an updated Dates for the Fridge for both Term 4 and 5. Dates can also be found on our website calendar. Any amendments or additions to this will be sent next term on Friday 11th March.

Don't forget that school is closed to all children on Monday 28th February so we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 1st March.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable half term break.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton



Dates for the Fridge Term 4 & 5

Term 4	
Monday 28th February	School closed to all children
Tuesday 1 st March	First day of term
Tuesday 1 st March	Pancake Day
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day
Friday 4 th March	Year 4 trip to Salisbury Cathedral
Monday 7 th March	Year 5/6 football match with Alderbury
Wednesday 9 th March	Year 3/4/5/6 Cross Country at Trafalgar
Wednesday 9 th March	Willow tunnel planting in the Adventure Garden
Tuesday 15 th March	Year R – National Child Measurement Programme - VirginCare
Tuesday 15 th March	DPSA Meeting – location and time TBC
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 18 th March	Year R Squirrels visit to Downton Library
Monday 21 st March	Year R Squirrels – trip to Tinneys Firs
Tuesday 22 nd March	Year R Rabbits – trip to Tinneys Firs
Thursday 24 th March	Year 3 trip to Southampton City Art Gallery
Friday 25 th March	Year 3 trip to Southampton City Art Gallery
Friday 25 th March	Dress Down Day in exchange for chocolate
Friday 25 th March	Year R Rabbits visit to Downton Library
Monday 28 th March	Visit from Wiltshire Air Ambulance – POSTPONED TIL OCTOBER 2022
Tuesday 29 th March	Visit from Wiltshire Air Ambulance – POSTPONED TIL OCTOBER 2022
Tuesday 29 th March	Year 4 Show (2:00pm – 3:00pm)
Wednesday 30 th March	Visit from Wiltshire Air Ambulance – POSTPONED TIL OCTOBER 2022
Wednesday 30 th March	Year 4 Show (6:00pm – 7:00pm)
Wednesday 30 th March	Reports home to parents
Friday 1 st April	DPSA Chocolate BINGO in school hall – eyes down at 6pm
Monday 4 th April	Parents Evening
Tuesday 5 th April	School Class Photos
Wednesday 6 th April	Stations of the Cross (parent viewing after school TBC)
Thursday 7 th April	Parents Evening
Friday 8 th April	Easter Service – details TBC
Friday 8 th April	Last day of term
Term 5	
Monday 25th April	First day of term
Saturday 30 th April	Downton Cuckoo Fair
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3 rd May	Year 4 residential to New Barn
Wednesday 4 th May	Year 4 residential to New Barn
Monday 9 th May	Living Eggs arrive in school
Monday 9 th May	Year 3 trip to Salisbury Museum
Wednesday 11 th May	Year 3 trip to Salisbury Museum



Friday 13 th May	DPSA Quiz Night at Sherwood Suite, Downton Football Club
Wednesday 18 th May	Year 5 assembly with Wessex Rivers Trust
Monday 23 rd May	Healthy Me Week
Wednesday 25 th May	Wessex Rivers Trust river dipping with Year 5
Thursday 26 th May	Queen's Jubilee celebrations – details TBC
Friday 27 th May	Sports Day

