



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 18th March 2022

Dear Families,

What a colourful end to the week we have had! Not only is it lovely to see the sun shining and signs that spring has arrived, but it has also been wonderful to see all the bright, vibrant socks and tights being worn in school today to help raise money for Comic Relief. Thank you so much to you all for your support with this – we have raised over £210!



There are lots of trips and visits happening this term, however we thought you might also like to read about updates on our participation in sporting and charity events over the last few weeks. We are really proud of your children.

Cross Country Competition

Last Wednesday, we ventured over to Trafalgar School to compete in Wiltshire Cross Country Competition - it was great to see so many children taking part and showing true sportsmanship by cheering on their friends. As a result of their hard work and great performances we were successful. Overall our teams came 2nd and 4th and our individual child positions were exceptional – across all of the participating school. Joel in Year 4 was positioned 2nd out of the Year 3 & 4 boys, Maddie in year 4 was positioned 2nd out of the Year 3 & 4 girls and Lola in Year 6 took home the gold coming 1st place out of the Year 5 & 6 girls. A fantastic effort by everyone who took part, well done everyone we are proud of you!



Year 5 and 6 Football match at Downton Football Club

On Monday 7th March, a team of our Year 5 & 6 children travelled to Downton Football Stadium where we hosted our first match against Alderbury Primary School. This was a fabulous experience for our team to play in such a large venue and express themselves on the pitch. We were extremely proud of them and hope to offer more experiences like this to children in other year groups. We would like to thank Downton Football Club for allowing us to use this venue; Rae Hughes for setting up the pitches and Tom Williams for refereeing the match. Without your help, this would not have been possible.



Year 3 and 4 Football match at Alderbury

On Monday, a team of our Year 3 & 4 children were invited to Alderbury Primary School to take part in a match. The boys controlled the game throughout hardly playing in their half and their strength and determination saw them walk away with a 5-0 win. We are so proud of the team and can't wait for our next match!



Mini-Marathon

We are delighted that the Salisbury Mini-Marathon will be happening again this year on Saturday 21st May. As the clocks change the lighter evenings will be a great opportunity for us all to practice for this event. We will shortly be writing to you with details of our running club, however these sessions will be weather dependent – so do start training with your children as soon as you can. This is usually a fabulous event which is enjoyed by our families.



Bridge Project visit KS1

This week, our Key Stage 1 children worked with the Bridge Project, to explore Holy Week through the sounds of Easter, in an interactive workshop. All of the children were engaged and had a go at representing different sounds of the story using a range of instruments and resources. They used coconut shells to represent the sound of the donkey's hooves as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, marched like Romans on gravel and waved palm leaves to reenact the scene as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. This thought provoking workshop really supported our children to reflect on the story of Easter and why Christians celebrate it.

Sunflowers for Ukraine

Hopefully you will have seen our recent communication about our Sunflower initiative. A member of Worship Council has proposed that every child in school plant a sunflower seed in exchange for a £1 donation made via SchoolGateway. All donations will be sent to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. This charity supports the Ukraine and neighbouring countries, to meet the needs of all refugees and displaced people for more information see the link below <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal> Children will be planting the seeds, in school on Monday 21st March, so do send your donation in before then. We would love to see your sunflowers as they grow at home so please do share them with us regularly on Seesaw.



EYFS library trip

We are keen to ensure that all children in school learn about the work of the public library and have a membership card. This is of particular importance as until recently libraries were closed for months at a time. We are starting this initiative with EYFS and Squirrels class who visited the Downton Library earlier today, followed by Rabbits next week.

Alfresco Baking at After School Club

This week, our children at our wraparound care enjoyed some fresh air and had the opportunity to make some tasty treats at the same time. They all had the chance to get involved with making some chocolate cornflake cakes which they were then able to take home and enjoy – I hope they shared them – they looked great.





Planting potatoes in EYFS

Earlier this week our Reception children enjoyed a spot of gardening in their outdoor area and even planted seed potatoes ready for harvesting later this year. All of the children will help look after them, watering them when needed and learning about the process as they grow.



Building work in Gravel Close

We have been informed that a property along Gravel Close is having some building work completed in the weeks following the Easter holidays. Please be mindful that if you use the Gravel Close entrance that at drop off and pick up, there may be increased traffic movement and also larger vehicles navigating the road to reach the property.

DPSA update

This week the DPSA held their termly meeting to discuss their upcoming events, in particular the Cuckoo Fair and also Chocolate Bingo. There are still seats available for Chocolate Bingo on Friday 1st April but they are selling fast so don't forget to purchase your tickets and join us for a fun evening. There is also the Cuckoo Fair sign up sheet in the office and they are encouraging as many parents as possible that can spare even just an hour to help on the day to help run the BBQ, Café and Pimms bar. Not only is it a really great event to be a part of, but you will also be helping the DPSA raise funds for our school.



As another week ends, I just wanted to say how proud I am of all of your children. They are all working hard on their learning each day and as evidenced in this letter, they are dedicated to helping others and being the best representatives of the school that they can be. They are great ambassadors for us and model our values of love, peace and joy in everything they do.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

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