



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 18th November 2022

Dear Families,

As we enter a very exciting time of year, we have some wonderful events coming up as we head towards Christmas. We appreciate it is a busy time for everyone so we hope that you find this letter useful (and exciting!) in letting you know everything that we have coming up for the remainder of the term.



Dress Down Day - Friday 25th November

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

Surprise Cups – to be returned by Wednesday 30th November

One of the most popular stalls at the Christmas Extravaganza is always the Surprise Cups. The cups are wrapped cups filled with the likes of stationary, small toys, stickers, sweets and chocolates which the children can buy. Soon your child will bring home a cup which, if you are able to, we would love you to **fill, wrap and return to the office by Wednesday 30th November**. Please mark on it whether the contents are best suited to **Boy, Girl or Unisex** – thank you.



Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Extravaganza – Friday 2nd December

We're delighted that a very special guest will be joining us again this year at the Christmas Extravaganza. This year, the Grotto is open to groups of children who will have the opportunity to meet Santa and hear a funny festive story read to them by the man himself. Spaces are limited and there are 4 time slots available – 4:10pm, 4:30pm, 4:50pm and 5:10pm and these must be booked in advance on SchoolGateway. The cost is £1.50 per child and they will receive a sweet treat following their visit.

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 £100 Smyths voucher and £50 Amazon voucher as well as a fantastic amount of other prizes too! See the poster on page 5 with more details! 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.



Christmas Extravaganza - Friday 2nd December

On Friday 2nd December sees the return of the DPSA's amazing festive event, the Christmas Extravaganza. Following the success of last year's outdoor event, this year will follow the same format with a festoon lit marquee, stalls, games and so much more. The DPSA rely on volunteers to help facilitate this event and without them it may not be able to go ahead in the capacity it is planned. If everyone was able to give just 30 minutes of their time, it would go a long way in helping make this a huge success and a fantastic event for the children, our families and also the local community to enjoy. It is also such a wonderful event to be a part of. If you can spare some time, please do sign up using this link: <https://signup.zone/mYCiWQgEchMTCEzm5>



Savage Christmas Lights - Saturday 3rd December onwards

As some of you may be aware, Mr & Mrs Savage cover their house with 1000's of lights for Christmas and every year support a different charity. Recognising the rising costs and in a bid to support local families, this year their Christmas lights will be raising money and accepting food donations for the Downton Community Larder. This local incentive helps local families by giving them access to food that has kindly been donated to the Larder. Please do pay the display a visit in Catherine Crescent - they will be switched on from 6pm on Saturday 3rd December - there is even rumour of a short firework display!

Secret Present Room - w/c 5th December

Week commencing 5th December sees one of our rooms turned into a festive gift shop thanks to the DPSA! For those of you who have not yet heard of the Secret Present Room, it is a lovely opportunity for the children to buy a surprise gift for a loved one - whether that be mum, dad, a grandparent - or even their pet cat or dog! Children can purchase one gift each which are £3 and must be purchased in advance via SchoolGateway if you would like your child to visit the Secret Present Room. As with the Extravaganza, the DPSA require help with facilitating this event. If you would like to get involved, please sign up via this link: <https://signup.zone/mg3BQdSg477pbRLBZ>



Nativities

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

Year R present A Little Nativity - Tuesday 6th (1:30pm) and Wednesday 7th December (9:30am)

KS1 present Bethlehem Bake-Off — Monday 12th (1:30pm) and Tuesday 13th December (9:30am and 1:30pm)

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.



Song for Christmas on Salisbury Radio - Wednesday 7th December

Mrs Sims has been working with the school choir and also our Year 5 children to learn a festive song which will be performed and recorded by Salisbury Radio next week, and then played on Salisbury Radio on Wednesday 7th December. The song will be broadcast twice on the day - at Breakfast with Craig Hicks and then again in the afternoon with Drive with Grant Francis. The song can also be downloaded on the day of the broadcast at a cost of £1, which will be donated to Salisbury Hospice. Our song along with other participating schools in the Salisbury area will be judged by a panel and we could be in with a chance of winning £200 in Book Vouchers. You can find out how to listen to Salisbury Radio via this link: <https://lovesalisbury.co.uk/2021/09/01/heres-how-to-listen-to-salisbury-radio/>



Downton Christmas Tree Festival at St Laurence's Church - Sunday 12th December at 10am

We are delighted that our school choir along with our Year 5 children have been invited to perform at the Downton Christmas Tree Festival. Please do pop along and enjoy this festive event with them and enjoy their performances.





Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch - Thursday 15th December

Thursday 15th 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 can be found on page 4 of this letter 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 - Friday 16th December

Our last day of term is Friday 16th December along with our Christmas church service which will commence at 1:30pm. 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 2:15pm 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 Thursday 15th December. As the whole school will be attending the service, the school office will be closed from midday on Friday 16th 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 will not be possible without you.

Best wishes,

Paula Carlton



Christmas Menu

**Turkey breast with
chipolata sausage
or
Vegetable wellington**

**Served with roast potatoes,
garden peas, carrot batons,
brussel sprouts and gravy**

**Christmas biscuit
Fruit salad**



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year





PRIZE RAFFLE!

1st Prize - Paultons Park Gift Card worth £160

with thanks to ASG Landscaping

2nd Prize - £100 Smyths Vouchers

from the DPSA

3rd Prize - £50 Amazon Voucher

with thanks to Downton Tyre and Autocentre

Other prizes include:

Beer from Hopback Brewery - 2x free entry to Clownabout

Whiskey from Bidfood - Toy Bundles from DirectCare

Vouchers from The Goat, Hair By Kirsty, Alpine Auto Styling,

Carters Barbers, Hurdcott Dog Grooming, 3 months Gymies

Membership, No22 Beauty & Massage, McDonalds,

Beauty by Abby, Cracknell Timber

and so much more!!

Tickets: £3 a strip or 2 strips for £5

Available now from the School Office or purchase on the night!

