



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Monday 18th September 2023

Dear Families,

This week Rabbits and Squirrels have stayed for their first lunchtime. As they took a well-earned rest this weekend, I am sure that they were looking forward to their first full day in school today. It has been a real pleasure to see them settle into life at Downton Primary so quickly. The children have enjoyed exploring different areas of learning and in particular creative activities and the mud kitchen! The school corridors have already been brightened up by their wonderful of their self-portraits. We are so proud of them all – each of them have enjoyed making special friendships.



Mental Health Workshop

This morning our Mental Health team, held an informative and well attended workshop to share with parents how we support children’s mental health in school, introduce our ELSA, Relax Kids and Thrive practitioners and to share strategies which parents can use at home. Throughout the workshop parents were able to ask questions and view resources that might help outside of school. A huge thank you, Mrs Bates (our Mental Health Lead), Mrs Drennan (our Relaxed Kids practitioner), Mrs Rhoades (our Thrive practitioner and Laura Emm (our ELSA) for running this wonderful session. The next workshop will be held on **20th November**, with more support and advice – so save the date!



Updated Class Website Pages

Please do have a look at your child’s class page on the website – there you will find their current knowledge organiser, topic map and any letters that have been sent home. You will also see that they now have an updated class photo too!



Royal Visitor

Last Thursday afternoon, our newly elected School Council went on their first official duty. The children visited Stable and Wick Farm Shop, in Downton and met Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh. They were delighted she asked them each a question about school life.

A member of the Council, Hugo said 'Her Royal Highness was really lovely. She asked me what I like best about school. I told her that I love Maths and PE, especially football.' She asked me what football team I supported we talked about our favourite teams.' Hugo went on to say 'It was a really special afternoon.'

Our lovely School Council presented HRH with a bouquet of flowers, on behalf of the school, made by local florist, Mandy Gardner.



An Exciting New Blue Peter Badge

Blue Peter has introduced an amazing new Book Badge, beautifully designed by Sir Quentin Blake, along with a dedicated monthly book club. This badge will be awarded to children aged five to fifteen who share their thoughts on a book, create character illustrations, and express their love for other books and authors. This is an exciting badge to earn especially knowing that reading is a superpower that can ignite children's imaginations.

To apply click on the link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>



Bag2School

We're delighted to once again be supporting the Bag2School scheme, with our collection scheduled for Wednesday 15th November. Bag2School specialise in collecting and buying quality second hand textiles which are then sold to wholesalers in emerging nations. To find out what you can donate, please visit their website: <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>. We will be able to accept your bagged donations from Wednesday 8th November, simply drop them at the school office.



NHS Guide - Is my child too ill for school?

The NHS have provided us with some very useful guidance that we wanted to share with you – 'Is my child too ill for school?' In this article you will find lots of useful information about various conditions and attending school with such illnesses.

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_source=Schools+newsletter&utm_campaign=6fdde74599-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_09_02_02_40_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_48248bb0ce-6fdde74599-88529372



Is my child too ill for school?



Chef Manager vacancy

HC3S are looking for a Chef Manager to come and join our fabulous team here at Downton. Please check out the following link for more details:

<https://careers.newjob.org.uk/HCC/job/Outside-Hampshire-Chef-Manager-Downton-Primary-School%2C-Salisbury-HC3S-599772-%28W%29-HAM/866430001/>

Play Park Refurbishment

We are thrilled to share some exciting news from our parish council! Starting next week, from Monday 18th September, work on the brand-new playpark at the Memorial Gardens will begin. This project promises to bring lots of fun and enjoyment to children in the whole community. As a result, the current park will be temporarily closed between September 18th and October 13th. Although, throughout this period the park toilets will remain open.

The entire school community has been invited for the grand opening of the new playpark on Friday, October 13th, at 3:30 pm. This promises to be a very special event, organised



by the Parish Council, with a special appearance by Olympic athlete Lloyd Wallis. In addition to this exciting guest, there will be free face painting for children, adding a touch of magic to the festivities. But that's not all! Your children will have the incredible opportunity to be among the first in the area to test out the wonderful new park facilities.

In the spirit of community engagement, the Parish Council have launched a creative competition. The children in our community are all invited to design posters advertising this event. The winner, along with the five runners-up, will have the privilege of being the very first children to explore the exciting new equipment in our playpark before the grand opening. The closing date for this competition is Friday 6th October.

We can't wait to see the vibrant and imaginative designs our young artists will come up with! Don't forget to save the date for an afternoon of celebration, and endless fun as they officially unveil our fantastic new play park.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Carter

