



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 19th November 2021

Dear Families,

It has been a very busy week in school, with lots of adventures for many of our children. This week four of our classes were out and about learning more about the world (and galaxy) we live in. They had a wonderful time as can be seen by the pictures below.

Year 4 trip to The Living Rainforest



Year 4 had a great visit to the Living Rainforest on Monday. Lewis and Charlotte were very keen to talk about this 'really cool' trip. They enjoyed a very small, but very hairy, bird eating tarantula; a poisonous dart frog which wasn't poisonous and a really long fish which they tell me had human teeth. Thank you to our volunteers who came along, without you the trip would not have gone ahead.

Year 1 and 2 trip to the Space Dome



Yesterday, our KS1 pupils were able to reach for the stars, travelling only as far as the Memorial Hall. The Winchester Science Centre had set up a planetarium for them to explore space. Children thoroughly enjoyed finding out about the different planets and stars. Lyra told me she loved it and went to visit the moon and Mars. Her overall favourite was without a doubt definitely the moon!

School Photos

Don't forget to place your orders for school photos! The easiest way to do this is online or if you would like to return your order to school, this must be with us no later than 9am on Monday 22nd November.





Bag2School

A huge thank you for clearing those cupboards, drawers and wardrobes at home over the last few weeks in preparation for our Bag2School collection. We're pleased to share with you that it was collected this week and it all weighed in at an impressive 580kg, which equated to £175 for the school!

Christmas Extravaganza Friday 3rd December

We are extremely excited to be hosting the Christmas Extravaganza again this year on Friday 3rd of December after school. There are a few alterations to the format, but they will make it really special. This year the Extravaganza will be held on the school playground. There will be lots of old favourites such as the Wine & Chocolate Tombola, Surprise Cups, Teddy Tombola, games stalls and much more. We are delighted that the Downton Band and School Choir will be performing too. Alongside all of this there are new additions such as mulled wine, hot chocolate, hot food, the infamous raffle and fingers crossed a special visitor from the North Pole. Do tell your friends and families (all are welcome). If you would like to sign up to help for a short period on one of the stalls, please pop into the school office. We look forward to seeing you all.



Covid Update

We have been advised that there is a significant uptick in cases in primary aged children. If your child is named as a contact of someone who has tested positive, we would ask that you arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible, even though they may not have any symptoms. If someone in your household tests positive for Covid, they can still come to school, but they will need to do daily lateral flow tests for ten days. Thank you for your cooperation with this – as doing so will prevent an increase in cases.

Rest assured in school we are working hard to keep everyone as safe as possible and as a school community are extremely grateful to you all for the part that you are all playing in this.



Fancy Abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower?

Mr Outhwaite and Malcolm Dean have kindly volunteered to abseil down the Spinnaker Tower to raise funds for the DPSA. They are looking for more volunteers to join them to descend 100m down Portsmouth's iconic landmark – if you are interested please contact the office with your details before the end of term. What an amazing experience this would be to get involved with!

Have a lovely family weekend.

Paula Carlton

Paula Carlton

