

Downton Church of England VA Primary School

Gravel Close, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3LZ

Telephone: 01725 510556

Email: admin@downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk Website: www.downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Deputy Headteachers: Mrs A Bates BA (Hons) QTS & Mrs M Ford BA (Hons) QTS



Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome back to term 4, we hope you all enjoyed a restful break. We are looking forward to this busy term filled with residentials, plays, welly walks, trips, sporting events and a trip to church.



'Upcycling is tricky in the dark, but great fun to turn junk into models.'

"One small thing that can make a BIG difference"

This week, we held our annual "Switch Off Day," which presented an excellent opportunity for the children to grasp the importance of minimising our carbon footprint. It was so lovely to see the whole school explore simple actions like turning off appliances and lights, recycling, minimising food waste, lowering heating settings, as well as opting for sustainable ways to travel to school. We all discovered how even the smallest of our actions made a difference. By adopting these practices, we hope our children will learn how they can impact our planet for the better. During the event, everyone experienced working in dimly lit, unheated classrooms without technology and enjoyed a meat-free menu for lunch. As a finale, we committed to undertaking one small action to contribute to a significant positive change in our world – you can find some wonderful examples below.



Young Carer Friendly Award
Education



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Design Technology Food and Nutrition in Key Stage 1

On Tuesday, Key Stage 1 children enjoyed in a DT day. During the day the children considered what being healthy means. They also learnt that eating a variety of vegetables provides the body with the nutrients it needs, ending their learning by making their own fruit kebabs.

Their first task was to identify the various ingredients they would use, prompting discussions on their origins as well as transportation to our location. They really enjoyed designing their own kebabs, exploring different patterns and utilising the vibrant colours of the fruits. Putting their designs into action, they perfected their chopping and peeling skills to prepare the fruits before assembling them onto skewers for presentation, and then of course eating them. The pictures really speak for themselves!

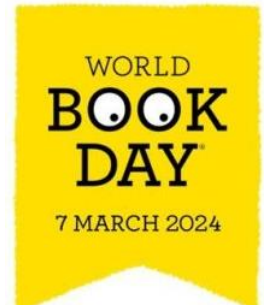


World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

As a school with a passion for reading, we really enjoy promoting World Book Day. However, this year we fully understand that some parents may have concerns regarding the proposed dress-up day for World Book Day and the considerations related to the cost of living.

At Downton, it is important to us that all of our families feel included and comfortable when participating in school activities. Many beloved characters in literature are children in everyday clothing. For us, celebrating World Book Day can take many forms, from discussing favourite books to engaging in related activities, all of which can be done without any additional expense.

We want to assure you that whilst we encourage creativity and enthusiasm for World Book Day, dressing up is entirely optional and should never pose a financial burden on families. We completely respect and support parental choice in this matter.



New clubs for Term 5

We have two new exciting clubs starting after Easter. On a Tuesday, we welcome Forest Girls Football who will be running a football club for our Year 1-3 girls. They currently work with Fordingbridge and Salisbury Cathedral schools and we are delighted to welcome them to our school. On a Friday, we will be hosting Mini Tennis, run by local tennis club Mahony Tennis. This will be open to children in Years 1 to 4 and details on how to book will be shared soon. Unfortunately, we are yet to receive news from UKAG regarding the return of gymnastics and we will keep you posted if and when we know more.



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Message from Wiltshire Council – become an Emergency foster carer

There are situations that arise unexpectedly which mean young people need emergency care and support at short notice. Foster carers under this scheme provide temporary emergency care to any child or young person needing a safe place to stay until a suitable home is found. Young people in this situation are dealing with uncertainty and may also be traumatised and will

need extra support. Emergency foster carers receive £900 per week per child when they have a child to stay with them and £500 per week when they don't have foster children to care for.

Wiltshire Council would like to recruit more carers to help meet the demand. To find out more here is the updated list of fostering drop-in sessions at [Fostering events - Fostering with Wiltshire Council](#)



Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial for your child to fully benefit from their school experience and cultivate essential life skills for the future. Our school is dedicated to actively engaging with parents to ensure that each child consistently attends and arrives on time. Consistent school attendance is fundamental for every child's academic, social, and emotional development. We anticipate all students to be present every day and to be in the playground at the beginning of the day. Absences and lateness can disrupt a child's learning and convey negative messages about the importance of education. We urge parents and guardians to collaborate with us in preventing their children from missing out due to unnecessary absences.

You can find more information about school attendance on our website on our new Attendance page:

<https://downton-pri.wilts.sch.uk/attendance>

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?

Right to education (Article 28)



Save the date

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the DPSA disco on **7th March**. If you are able to help, please let Ellie Bass or Karmon Hall know. These events are important so that we can keep the costs of transport on trips down. For more information see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Best wishes

Paula Carlton

Paula Carlton



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Dates for the Fridge - Term 4 & 5

Term 4	
Monday 19 th February	TD Day
Tuesday 20 th February	First day of term
Wednesday 21 st February	Switch Off Day
Monday 26 th February	Road Safety Sessions with Road Safety Education Team
Tuesday 27 th February	Road Safety Sessions with Road Safety Education Team
Wednesday 28 th February	Road Safety Sessions with Road Safety Education Team
Wednesday 28 th February	Reader of the Term trip
Friday 1 st March	Dress Down Day in exchange for chocolate for Chocolate Bingo
Monday 4 th March	Rabbits trip to <u>Tinneys Firs</u>
Tuesday 5 th March	Squirrels trip to <u>Tinneys Firs</u>
Wednesday 6 th March	Fixture - Y3/4 <u>Quicksticks</u> @ South Wilts CC
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day – dress as your favourite book character
Thursday 7 th March	DPSA School Disco with Disco Dion
Monday 11 th March	Fixture - Y5/6 Cross Country @ WSE
Tuesday 12 th March	KS1 trip to <u>Marwell Zoo</u>
Wednesday 13 th March	Fixture - Y3/4 Tag rugby @ WSE
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day
Monday 18 th March	Year 6 Residential
Monday 18 th March	Year 3/4 Show – Afternoon performance
Monday 18 th March	Living Eggs arrive in school
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 6 Residential
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 3/4 Show – Evening performance
Wednesday 20 th March	Year 6 Residential
Thursday 21 st March	Fixture - Y4/5 Orienteering @ <u>Dinton Park</u>
Friday 22 nd March	Reports home to parents
Friday 22 nd March	DPSA Chocolate Bingo – eyes down at 5:30pm
Tuesday 26 th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 27 th March	Parents Evening
Wednesday 27 th March	Fixture - Tag Rugby Fixture at Bishops
Thursday 28 th March	Easter Service at <u>St Laurences</u>
Thursday 28 th March	Last day of term
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday
Term 5	
Monday 15 th April	First day of term
Tuesday 23 rd April	International Language Day
Thursday 25 th April	Promo Photo Day – marketing photos all day
Friday 26 th April	Year 5/6 Open Classroom at 2:30pm
Friday 3 rd May	Year 3/4 Open Classroom at 2:30pm



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Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7 th May	Year 4 Residential - Hooke Court
Wednesday 8 th May	Year 4 Residential - Hooke Court
Friday 10 th May	Year 1/2 Open Classroom at 2:30pm
Monday 13 th May	KS2 SATs week
Friday 17 th May	Year R Open Classroom at 2:30pm
Friday 17 th May	School Photo Day – Class photos and whole school
Monday 20 th May	Healthy Me Week
Tuesday 21 st May	Welcome Evening for 2024 intake
Thursday 23 rd May	Sports Day
Friday 24 th May	Last day of term

THE DPSA PRESENTS

DISCO

THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

WITH DISCO DION

EYFS & KS1 - 4:15PM TIL 5PM

KS2- 5:15PM TIL 6PM

£3.50 PER CHILD TO BE PAID VIA SCHOOL GATEWAY

PRICE INCLUDES 2 GLO BRACELETS

SWEET CONES AVAILABLE TO BUY FOR £1.50

ON THE NIGHT



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