



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Ford BA (Hons)



Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear Families,

It is lovely to see your children enjoying their learning in school. We have this week, been observing classes and are delighted to share that all children are enjoying learning in their new class groups.

Childnet e-Safety Workshops

This week we had a visit from Tom and Alison from Childnet who came into school to run workshops for our e-Safety Day. Our 1/2 children learned about a character called Salma and some of the dilemmas that she faced online. The children then had to opportunity to offer advice, based on their learning. Year 3/4 learned about a range of different apps and how to be safe regarding personal informationsharing, cyberbullying and, grooming amongst other areas. Year 5/6 explored similar content but focused on slightly older messaging platforms, particularly around sharing and social media. We know that your children found these sessions useful and are confident, that they are more aware of how to stay safe when using online platforms.



Science experiments in Year 5

This week in science, our Year 5 children have been conducting experiments to find out the fabrics which are the best insulators for beakers of water. They were given different types of fabric to work with and had to measure the temperature of each beaker after a set amount of time, recording their findings along the way. Excellent work Year 5.



Thank You

We would like to say a big thank you to the Ellis family who kindly volunteered to come and clear our pond earlier this week. All the weed that was removed was left on the edge of the pond to enable any pond life to safely make its way back into the water. They have done an amazing job commenting that there is lots of pond life in there waiting to be explored with some pond dipping – the children can't wait to start pond dipping again!



Wraparound Care reminder

As you will be aware, our wraparound care has become increasingly popular with families to allow parents to work before and after school hours. We have over recent days seen an increase in children not attending sessions that have been booked. Please can we politely remind you that if there is a session you no longer need, that it is cancelled in good time to allow the space to be available for another family. Breakfast club sessions can be cancelled up until 8am the day before and After School Club up until 3pm the day before. Thank you.

REMINDER

Rabbits and Squirrels

This week saw our Reception children start full days at school. They have settled into school life really well, enjoying their playtime with their friends, hot school lunches in the hall and continuing to explore their classrooms. It is a joy to see all their smiling faces as they enjoy all the resources available to them and start their learning journey with us.



DPSA Christmas Cards

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have completed some wonderful Christmas card designs in school. These will be coming home this week and can be made into cards as well as some other fantastic gifts. Please support our DPSA as much as you can with these orders – all children will benefit from the funds that these orders generate! If you would like to place an order, please complete the right hand side of the artwork form **and complete your payment via SchoolGateway** - "DPSA Christmas Cards 2022", confirming what it is you have ordered in the "comments" box. The artwork with your orders must be **returned to school by Friday 14th October** either to the school office or your child's class teacher. Please note we are unable to accept cheque payments so please ignore that part of the order form.





Harvest

Our Harvest celebration will be on Friday October 14th in the afternoon, more information to follow. This year our Worship council have decided to collect non-perishable food products for those most at need in the Downton Community. We would be grateful if you could send your child into school with non-perishable dried food or tinned food on the day, in support of this cause. Thank you.

Young Artists

This week, Year 1 and 2 have been studying art by French artists Henri Matisse and Andre Derain, whose work is characterised by vibrant colour, painterly, expressive brushstrokes, and an irreverent approach to the idea of representation in art. Above is some of the work created by Dormice class. We think their work is fabulous – and hope you agree.



Ukulele returns

If your child has borrowed an Ukulele from school previously after taking part in Ukulele Club, please can we ask that these are returned to school if your child is no longer taking part. Mr Barker has reported that our Ukulele supply has depleted and we would be very grateful for these to be returned as soon as possible to enable other children to use them. Thank you.



Dates for the Fridge

The calendar is filling up thick and fast for the coming weeks with lots of events happening in school. We have attached a current Dates for the Fridge with this newsletter which will also be on our website. Please do keep checking for any updates and we will share an updated version later in the term.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Just a little reminder that our Year 5 children will be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday 29th September. Family and friends of the school are very welcome to attend along with the wider community. Year 5 will be asking for donations of cakes and biscuits (home-made or shop bought) so that they can raise funds for this worthy cause. We hope to see you there.



Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination

Every child in Year R to Year 6 is eligible for a free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination. The immunisation team will be visiting our school on Wednesday 5th October. To consent to, or to decline the flu vaccination for your child please click on the following link and complete by midnight on Sunday 25th September - <https://schoolimms.hrcaregroup.com/flu/2022/wilts>



Snacks and Lunchboxes

At Downton Primary School we have a simple approach to encouraging our children to make the right food choices early on so that they develop healthy eating attitudes for life. We respectfully request that children are provided with fruit, vegetables or a cracker for their playtime snack. This is a key element of our status as a Healthy School and try to enforce a 'No chocolate, crisps or sweets – save these as a special treat!' environment. Please remember we are a nut free school.

We request that items such as chocolate bars (Mars, Crunchie, Twix...etc.) are not sent into school. Thank you for helping with this by ensuring that none of these items are given as part of break time snacks or as packed lunches.



DPSA Secret Present Room

The DPSA are already busy planning this years Secret Present Room. This is a lovely opportunity for children to surprise and buy a Christmas gift for a special adult in their life. If anyone has any unwanted gifts at home that they are happy to donate or any leftover wrapping paper, gift bags, bows and ribbons that we could use for the children to wrap gifts, we would be really grateful. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you all in school for parent teacher meetings next week. If you are yet to book an appointment to meet your child's class teacher, please do so via this link: www.downtonpri.schoolcloud.co.uk

In the meantime, have a wonderful weekend with your children and families.

Best wishes,

Paula Carlton



It's time for Coffee Morning and you're invited



**Downton Primary
School are hosting a
Coffee Morning to raise money
for Macmillan Cancer Support.**

When:

Thursday 29th September
9:15am-10:15am



Where:

School hall - please
enter via the
school office

WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Dates for the Fridge – Term 1 and 2

Term 1	
Monday 26 th September	Year 1-6 Parents Evening (face-to-face)
Thursday 29 th September	Kestrels Swimming Lessons
Thursday 29 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:15am-10:15am
Thursday 29 th September	Year 1-6 Parents Evening (face-to-face)
Wednesday 5 th October	Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination
Wednesday 5 th October	Open Evening for 2023 intake
Wednesday 5 th October	Year 5/6 Mixed Football Tournament at Pembroke Park
Thursday 6 th October	Kestrels Swimming Lessons
Thursday 6 th October	National Poetry Day
Tuesday 11 th October	Sustainability Day
Tuesday 11 th October	Fair Trade Café 3pm-4:15pm supported by Lover Repair Café
Wednesday 12 th October	Year 4/5 Tri Golf
Wednesday 12 th October	Year R Parents Evening
Thursday 13 th October	Kestrels Swimming Lessons
Friday 14 th October	Harvest Festival
Friday 14 th October	Final deadline to return DPSA Christmas Card orders
Monday 17 th October	Deadline to return Rotary Christmas Shoeboxes
Monday 17 th October	School Photo Day – all children to wear uniform
Monday 17 th October	KS1 Village Walk
Wednesday 19 th October	Last day of term
Term 2	
Monday 31 st October	First day of term
Wednesday 2 nd November	DPSA Meeting – details TBC
Thursday 3 rd November	Kestrels Swimming Lessons
Thursday 10 th November	Badgers Swimming Lessons
Thursday 10 th November	DPSA School Disco
Friday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Monday 14 th November	Year 5 trip to Harry Potter World
Monday 14 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 14 th November	Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 15 th November	Year 3/4 trip to Living Rainforest
Thursday 17 th November	Badgers Swimming Lessons
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need
Thursday 24 th November	Badgers Swimming Lessons
Tuesday 29 th November	Scholastic Book Fair arrives in school
Friday 25 th November	Dress Down Day in exchange for wine/chocolate
Thursday 1 st December	Badgers Swimming Lessons
Friday 2 nd December	DPSA Christmas Extravaganza
Monday 5 th December	Secret Present Room – all week
Tuesday 6 th December	Year R Nativity (afternoon)



Tuesday 6 th December	Final day for Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday 7 th December	Year R Nativity (morning)
Thursday 8 th December	Badgers Swimming Lessons
Monday 12 th December	Year 6 trip to Beaulieu for a Victorian Christmas
Monday 12 th December	KS1 Christmas Show (afternoon)
Tuesday 13 th December	KS1 Christmas Show (morning)
Thursday 15 th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 15 th December	Christmas Service
Friday 16 th December	Last day of term

