



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

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



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Downton families,

Welcome back to term 4. Now that the evenings are getting longer it has been lovely to see the sun setting and even a rainbow or two over the EYFS classrooms.



We are delighted to share that Rabbits class will be able to relocate back to their classroom as of Monday next week. I would like to thank you and the staff for your support during this period. Whilst we are still awaiting some replacement furnishings, I am confident that the children will be delighted to return to their lovely classroom.

## Positive Playtimes

As a part of our positive playtimes initiative, this week we have introduced new equipment and playground zones at lunch and morning play. Play leaders have also been elected in each class and will be meeting with Mrs Bates regularly to establish and develop these zones further. This will include ordering more equipment, as well as playing with other children. All of our children really enjoyed playing with the new equipment - particularly the dressing up costumes! With this in mind, if you have any spare dressing up costumes or old comics please send them into school – they will make your children very happy.



## Planned Industrial Action – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

The National Education Union (NEU) is planning to take industrial action again on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. At the moment, we are still gathering numbers of teachers who are going to be absent from school, but I wanted to let you know that this could result in class, partial or whole school closures. As soon as we have more information, as to staff availability, we will put a plan in place and will share it with you.



## Switch Off Day

Thank you all for supporting SWITCH OFF DAY this year. All classes worked without Interactive boards and heating. The day raised great awareness of our reliance on electricity because it was darker and cold in many areas of the school. Hopefully it will remind us all to WASTE NOT WANT NOT from now on and remember to turn off all appliances and lights wherever possible. Thank you Mrs Wells for once again organising such a thought provoking and useful learning experience for the whole school. We have got some super examples of cross-curricular work in Maths and English from different year groups, all discussing the issues raised. Thank you everyone.



To save energy to make sure floods don't happen.

Y5

We did switch off because the water's getting higher.

Y3

Our school cares about looking after the wildlife.

Y4

We switched off the lights "because we didn't want the animals to get more endangered."

Y1

I know we're using electricity to live but if we use too much we won't live.

Y4

It was fun doing a story for KSI about stopping pollution.

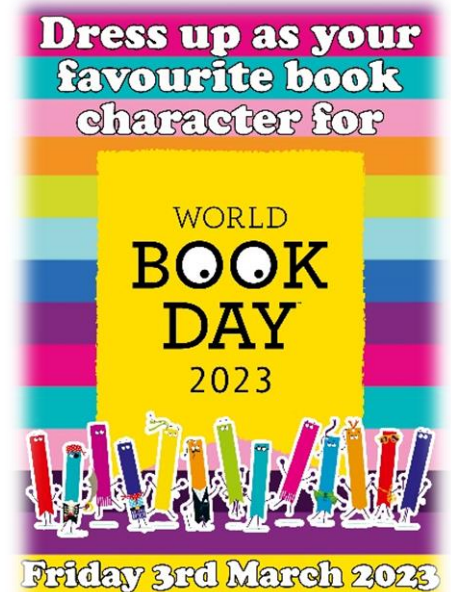
Y6

## World Book Day

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day as a school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March this year. We would love for the children to come in with their favourite book and dressed as their favourite character ready to celebrate a day of books and all things reading.

On the day, we will be hosting a Mystery Book Swap. If you would like your child to take part, they will need to come to school with an age-appropriate book for their year group, wrapped up and labelled with a couple of hints about what type of book it is. Only children that bring in a book will be able to participate in the swap.

This year we will be launching our 'Downton's Top 100 Reads' with the children. The books will be split up into 15 books per year group. Each child will take home a laminated bookmark with their Year group's 'Top Picks'. Every time that they have read one of the books from our library, a local library or at home, they can get their bookmark stamped in school by their class teacher. Once they have read all the books for their year group, they will be awarded a special badge to celebrate their achievement.





## Mental Health Ambassadors

This year we are very proud to have our first ever group of pupil Mental Health Ambassadors. This wonderful group of children, chosen by their peers, have the responsibility of promoting positive mental health and wellbeing throughout the school.

Their role will also include:

- Helping to support other pupils when they feel upset, lonely or worried.
- Encouraging everyone to talk about their feelings and ask for help when they need it.
- Supporting and organising specific mental health and wellbeing events
- Leading a range of activities within the school that promote health & wellbeing e.g. assemblies, Time to Talk sessions, Mindful Mondays



This morning they successfully completed their Mental Health Ambassador - Peer Support training, empowering them with the confidence and skills to actively listen and support their peers when they are upset. The children are looking forward to sharing more about their new role with the whole school next week during worship.

## School Council meets Parish Council

This week our School Councillors met with Stephanie who is a Parish Councillor for Downton. She explained her role and made comparisons between her role and the children's. She then talked about the meetings she has with people from Downton to try and make changes for the better. She asked the children about the changes they have made and we talked about our food tasting experience and how we have meetings to talk about the school. It was a superb experience to share and be a part of, thank you Stephanie.



## Peter Pan Performance timing changes

We shared this week with our Year 3/4 parents the confirmed dates, times and details for the Year 3/4 production of Peter Pan. We will be hosting a total of three performances, taking place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 1:45pm and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 9:15am and 6pm. The children cannot wait to share this with you - they have all been working really hard learning their lines and practising the songs to make this the best production for their parents to enjoy.



## Easter Service

Plans for our end of term Easter Service at St Laurence's Church are already underway. The service will take place at 2pm on the last day of term, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, with pick up from the church at 2:45pm. We would be very grateful for parent support in helping us walk the children to church, so if you are able to come along, please do let the school office know.



Warmest regards

*Paula Carlton*

Paula Carlton



<b>Term 4</b>	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	First day of term
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Switch Off Day
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Hawks Swimming Lessons
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Fixture</i> - KS2 Panathlon at Sarum Academy
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 6 trip - Salisbury Cathedral World Book Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>Fixture</i> - KS2 Mixed Cross Country at Trafalgar
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Dress Down Day in exchange for chocolate
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Dress Down Day in exchange for chocolate
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Centre
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Rabbits trip to Tinneys Firs
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Squirrels trip to Tinneys Firs
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day – colourful socks or tights – bring a coin for Comic Relief
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Reports home to parents
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	<i>Fixture</i> - Year 4/5 Orienteering at Dinton Park
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	<i>Fixture</i> - KS1 Indoor Cricket Skills Festival at Five Rivers Leisure Centre
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	DPSA Chocolate BINGO – eyes down at 5:30pm
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 present Peter Pan – 1:45pm
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 present Peter Pan – 9:15am
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 present Peter Pan – 6pm
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	<i>Fixture</i> - Year 5/6 Tag Rugby
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of term – Easter Service at 2pm, St Laurence’s Church
<b>Term 5</b>	
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>TD Day – school closed to all pupils</b>
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of term
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Fixture</i> – Year 3/4 Mixed Quad Kids at Trafalgar
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	International Language Day
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 4 residential to New Barn
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 3 Sculpture Workshop with Neil Wood
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 4 residential to New Barn
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	School Class Photos
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday – King’s Coronation</b>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS Week
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Fixture</i> – Year 5/6 Cricket
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Fixture</i> – Year 5/6 Football Tournament at Alderbury
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Salisbury Schools Mini Marathon
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 6 Bikeability – Group One
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 6 Bikeability – Group One
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of term

