



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Ford BA (Hons)



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Families,

What a wonderful week we have had in school. The sun has been shining everyone has been smiling and your children have been thoroughly engaged in everything they do. I walked around the school with a visitor yesterday and was just so proud of the learning that was happening. The children are really enjoying learning and share this with me regularly.

## Sunflower Planting for Ukraine

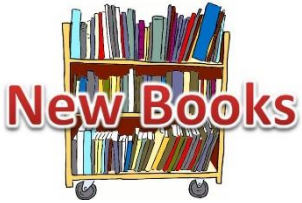
Thank you so much for supporting our sunflower appeal. On Monday every child in school had the opportunity to plant a sunflower seed for Ukraine with Katy & Phil from Downton Baptist Church. As soon as they had filled up their pot with soil and planted their seed, they then took a moment to say a prayer for families in Ukraine. Hopefully, all of these pots made it home safely. I know that your children will look after and nurture them. In school, we are all looking forward to finding out who can grow the biggest sunflower over the season. Your donations have raised over £170, for the Disasters Emergency Committee – thank you. We would really like to thank Katy and Phil who kindly gave us their time to help the children; Rosemary Leo who sourced and donated the flower pots and ASG Landscaping who donated the compost, without your help this would not have been possible.



## Virtual Author visit to Key Stage One

This week, the children in Key Stage one were very excited to take part in a virtual author workshop with Mini Grey as a part of the Wiltshire Year of Reading programme. They enjoyed hearing all about how Mini creates her books. She also shared with children details of her favourite characters. The children even joined in with a draw along to create their own mouse character – see some of the examples below. During the Q & A session at the end – we were all delighted when Downton Primary School, had a special mention – just marvellous.





### New books for the School Library

We would like to thank The Rocket Book Shop in Salisbury who have given the school 25% discount on all purchases for the school library. Miss Palmer and Mrs Watling were delighted with this news on Saturday when they went in to the shop to buy new books for our school. We are looking forward to reading the books ordered and keeping our eye out for more books in the near future.

### EYFS Visit Downton Library

This week our youngest children travelled to the Downton Library. This was a very special moment for all of us, not only because children had the opportunity to borrow their first library book, but also because they were able to visit our lovely village library again after two years.



### Rabbits and Squirrels trip to Tinneys Firs

This week was a special moment for our Reception children as they experienced their first trip on the school minibuses, visiting Tinneys Firs. They had a great time exploring the woods making animal homes for the Gruffalo characters, hunting for bear prints, making woodland crowns, making a den not to mention, enjoying their snack and a story.



### Year 3 trip to Southampton City Art Gallery

Our Year 3 classes have enjoyed learning about Greek art at the Southampton City Art Gallery this week. As you can see from the work above they created some stunning prints in the workshop and learnt a lot about symbolism in the art work on show.



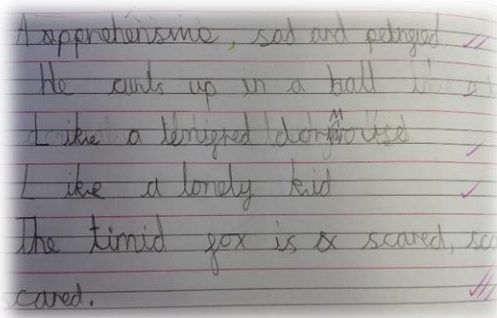
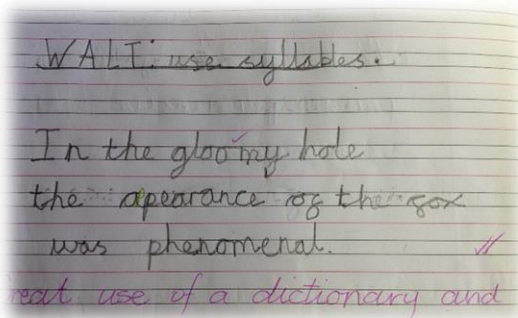
### Year 4 dress rehearsal of Hoodwinked

Year 4 performed their dress rehearsal of their performance 'Hoodwinked' to the whole school this afternoon. They had no need for first performance nerves - they were phenomenal. I know our parents and extended families will enjoy the shows scheduled for next week. They are in for a real treat!



### Year 3 World Poetry Day

We celebrated World Poetry Day in Year 3 with a visit from local poet, Marcus Tickner. He read a selection of his children's poems, including one written especially for the visit (where Miss Heath was unveiled as the actual Queen!) and explained how poets use syllables and imagery to choose the best words in the best order: to quote Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The children then wrote their own haikus linked with their class novel of Fantastic Mr Fox. The results were very impressive!



### Wraparound care and clubs for Term 5

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March, all clubs and wraparound care will be open for booking for Term 5. Please note that access to Term 5 bookings will only be available when all outstanding balances have been settled for Term 4. With the exception of our wraparound care and Premier Sport, booking for clubs will be available until midday on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April, after this time any queries regarding booking will need to go directly via the office. Thank you.

### DPSA Chocolate Bingo

We are looking forward to welcoming back Chocolate Bingo next week on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. The event has been incredibly popular and all seats have now been filled so thank you for your support. Unfortunately we are unable to accept walk-ins on the evening. Also, a huge thank you for all the chocolate donations received for our Dress Down Day – these will all be used as prizes on the night. If you have any Easter eggs or chocolate that you wish to donate please drop it into the office.



### Cuckoo Fair Volunteers Needed

The plans for the Cuckoo Fair are well underway and the DPSA are working hard to pull together everything ready for the main event. They are still in need of volunteers, particularly for the BBQ and across the afternoon in the Café. It really is an exciting event to be a part of and even if you can just spare an hour or two, it will go a long way towards helping make it possible, thank you.



I understand that the sun is due to shine once again this weekend. Please enjoy your family time this mothering Sunday. Thank you all for your continued support – we really are grateful. Have a good weekend.

Paula Carlton

