



# Downton Church of England VA Primary School

Gravel Close, Downton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 3LZ

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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Carlton BA (Hons) QTS NPQH

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M Ford BA (Hons)



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear families,

It's hard to believe that we are already over half way through this term, which must mean that we are getting closer and closer to Christmas. We've seen our children head off on some wonderful trips over the last couple of weeks and we have lots of exciting events still to come as we head into the second half of the term, what a very special place Downton is.

### Year 5 trip to Harry Potter World

Last week, our Year 5 children embarked on a trip to the Harry Potter Studios which brought to life their learning of this text back in the classroom. Their day was full of amazing activities including finding out what goes into turning a script into a film whilst taking on different role in production. They then got to explore the different sets, props used and even got to ride on a broom stick. There was no better sound than the 'wows' from the children as they explored the studios – what a fantastic experience for them all!



### Year 3/4 trip to The Living Rainforest

Following on from the Year 5 trip to HPW, our Year 3 and 4 children headed off to The Living Rainforest as part of their topic this term. During their visit they learnt lots of facts about rainforest animals such as poison dart frogs, caimans and sloths and also about how both the animals and plants are adapted to live in the rainforest habitat.



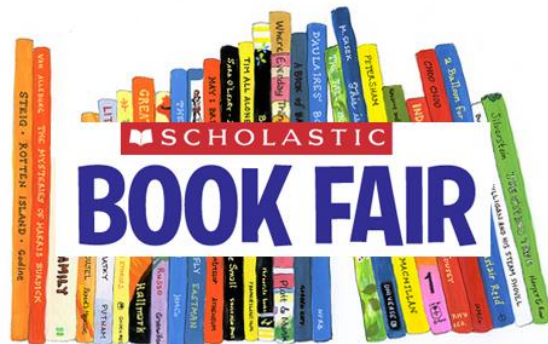
### Year 5/6 Football at Pembroke Park

On Thursday a group of our year 5 and 6 boys travelled to Pembroke Park Primary School to compete in the Salisbury Schools yearly football tournament. The boys played skillfully throughout the morning, and represented the school well by demonstrating great teamwork and sportsmanship. The team drew two matches, lost one and won one, just missing out on qualifying for the finals. A big thank you to Rae Hughes who came along, warmed the children up and gave great team talks. Super effort boys!



## Scholastic Book Fair

We are delighted to once again have the Scholastic Book Fair in school offering a great range of books. The book fair is due to arrive on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, and will be open from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November for purchases in the school office. All children will have the opportunity to also browse the books in the office as a class during the coming days and will take home a "wish list" to note down their favourite book at the book fair. Parents are also very welcome to visit the book fair in the school office throughout the school day should they wish to. This year's event will be CASHLESS, meaning books will need to be reserved, and then paid for via Gateway - once paid for the books will be delivered to your child in school or can be taken straight away if notification of payment is received by the office. Any books purchased by you generates valuable commission for us to purchase new books for our school library, so thank you! We look forward to seeing you there and, as always, thank you for your support.



## Christmas Extravaganza

A huge thank you for sending in your chocolate and wine donations today for next weeks festive event, we really are grateful. There is now only one week to go to the Christmas Extravaganza, taking place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 4pm-6pm. There will be hot food from The Giggling Gourmets, mulled wine and hot chocolate from the DPSA and also a bar courtesy of Downton Brewery. There will also be a selection of stalls, games and even decorating a gingerbread man! Alongside the grand prize raffle, performances from the school and community choir and Downton band, it is definitely the place to be next Friday. We hope to see you all there! Don't forget to sign up to help the DPSA make this event possible – if everyone can help even just for half an hour, it will go a long way to making this a success and a great event for the children! <https://signup.zone/mYCiWQgEchMTCEzm5>



## Sleigh Bells ringing in the hall

This week our school choir along with our Year 5 children sang their hearts out as they were recorded by Salisbury Radio. The children sang a fantastic performance of "Sleigh Ride" which was recorded to be broadcast on Salisbury Radio on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Be sure to tune in and have a listen – there will also be an option to download the track too! Thank you to Mrs Sims for directing this – we cannot wait to hear it!



## Wraparound Care and Clubs for Term 3

Bookings for our clubs and wraparound care for Term 3 will open on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. We will share the available clubs with you ahead of the bookings becoming available as there have been some changes next term. Bookings will open from 6pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November as Mrs Savage will be working late at home to do this for our parents. Please note that bookings for all clubs will only be available for your child once any outstanding balances have been settled for this term.



## Parking along Gravel Close

Following an incident this week, we would like to reiterate that parents are asked not to drive or park on Gravel Close at either drop off or pick up. We appreciate that parking in the village at these times is tricky but we ask for your cooperation for the safety of all of our children.



## Memorial Gardens entrance

We understand at this time of year with the decline in the weather that the Memorial Gardens entrance can be challenging. We are currently in talks with the Parish Council to install pathways and would encourage any parents who feel strongly about the installation of these, to please contact them directly to support us with this – thank you.





## SNACK TIME

### Break-time snacks

To help with our Healthy School's remit, please can we remind you that we respectfully request children are provided with only fruit, vegetables or a cracker for their playtime snack. Please also remember that we are a nut free school.



### Extra support for families

We thought it may be useful for us to highlight to you all a few *things* which would support you as a family, if you are in need of extra support.

- We can offer Free School Meals to children of families that qualify.

Please look at this link to see if you are eligible -

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1669/Free-school-meals>

- HMRC is also reminding families who may be missing out on tax-free childcare to register. Families receive up to £500 every three months per child which can be put towards wraparound care -

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs>

- There are also a number of foodbanks in the area who support local families:

Salisbury Pantry, The Trussell Trust and The Larder at Downton Baptist Church. The LARDER is now open on four occasions during the week and everyone is welcome. It is to stop food going into landfill and provide good food to those who would like it.

- There is a charity which supports Downton families and also runs from the Baptist Church [www.downton4family.org.uk](http://www.downton4family.org.uk)

- The KITCHEN at Downton Baptist Church is opening on Thursday next week. It will be offering a free bowl of soup and bread roll to anyone and everyone. It will be available from the end of the school day until 7pm to help families with one less meal to provide. This is supported by Downton Baptist Church, Downton Churches Together and the Coop.

DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

The logo for 'The Kitchen' features the words 'The Kitchen' in a stylized, hand-drawn font. Surrounding the text are various food-related icons: an apple, a slice of cake, a whisk, a bowl of soup, a rolling pin, a lemon slice, a cup, and a pie.

FOOD TO SHARE

**OPENING TIMES**

**Thursday 3.30 pm to 7.00 pm**

**A FREE HOT MEAL FOR EVERYONE!**

**We will be serving a bowl of hot soup and roll all afternoon. Everyone welcome to come and share together as a community.**

Supported by Downton Churches Together

DBC, South Lane, Downton. Registered Charity No

DOWNTON BAPTIST CHURCH

# The LARDER

Open:

**9am -10am | Wednesday and Thursday**  
**6pm - 7pm | Monday and Thursday**

Everyone is welcome to come and share from **The LARDER**. You will find a wide variety of food donated by our local community and made available by local suppliers.

Our hope is that **The LARDER** will reduce food waste and make good food available to everyone who would like it.

**The LARDER** is absolutely free and anyone can come and access one bag of 10 items per week. The contents of **The LARDER** will constantly change depending on availability.

**The LARDER** is FREE but if you would like to make a donation for your food you would be welcome. All donations received will go to purchasing more food. If you would like to donate non-perishable food then please bring it during **The LARDER** opening hours.

DBC, South Lane, Downton. Registered Charity No 11311186

Have a wonderful weekend with your lovely children.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paula Carlton'.

Paula Carlton

